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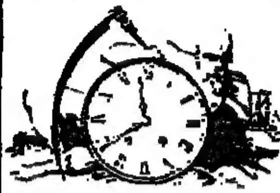
Tomorrow

Future...
Great expectations: New Year hopes and resolutions from some top people of 1983, and a 1984 calendar of world sport.

Perfect
Forever England: tiffin and tennis parties in Malaysia, land of Somerset Maugham.

Cut...
A day at the sales: Values offers a guide for bargain-hunters.

And run
Julie Davidson celebrates hogmanay by temporarily abandoning her Scottish home and fleeing to the Fens.



Brother...
Neil Kinnock reflects on the real lessons of George Orwell's *1984*.

In law
Gavin Stamp looks at planning legislation and how different architects respond to the controls.

Best Austin Rover year since 1979

Austin Rover has produced 450,000 cars this year, 44 per cent of all cars made in Britain, recording its best performance since 1979. It has also produced more than 40 cars per man, against only six per man in 1979 **Page 2**

US to review terror tactics

The Pentagon investigation into the Beirut suicide bombing is likely to result in a global reappraisal of US military tactics, including a tougher response to terrorism **Page 4**

Stunted children

A study commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security says that children of the long-term unemployed can suffer from stunted growth **Page 2**

Gandhi debut

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, son of the Indian Prime Minister, strongly attacked the left when he delivered his first important speech at a party meeting in Calcutta **Page 5**

Beach Boy dies

Dennis Wilson, drummer in the Beach Boys pop group, drowned while diving in a marina near Los Angeles. He was 39 **Page 4**
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Breath-test call

A Conservative MP has called for the introduction of random breath tests to reduce death and injury on the roads **Page 3**

Deafness risk

Young people are at serious risk of having impaired hearing in later life because of prolonged exposure to loud music, organizations for the deaf said **Page 3**

Pound rises

The pound touched $1.45 for *the first time in three weeks*, with the dollar weakening as expectations fell of a rise in American interest rates **Page 15**

China's success

China has achieved its 1985 production targets two years early, it is reported **Page 5**

Boycott applies

Geoffrey Boycott has applied to join the Yorkshire committee as a representative of Wakefield district. The man he will oppose, Dr John Turner, voted against Boycott's dismissal in October **Page 19**

US brushes aside Western pleas to stay in Unesco

By Our Foreign Staff

The Reagan Administration yesterday formally announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) at the end of next year.

Claiming that "continued United States participation does not serve the interests of the United States", a State Department spokesman in Washington condemned the organization's anti-West bias, efforts to restrict press freedom, and wasteful management methods.

Mr Amadou Mahtar Mbow, Unesco's director-general, was notified formally of the US intention to withdraw on Wednesday, though the Administration's action had been anticipated for several weeks. Under the agency's rules, a country must give one year's notice of intention to leave.

The spokesman said the decision to withdraw was made by President Reagan on the recommendation of Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State. Mr Reagan had brushed aside last-minute appeals by France and West Germany to remain in Unesco to try to reform it from within.

Reading from a prepared statement, the spokesman said: Mr Shultz's recommendation was "based upon our experience *that Unesco has extraneously* politicized virtually every subject it deals with, has exhibited hostility towards the basic institutions of a free society, especially the free market and the free press, and has demonstrated unrestrained budgetary expansion."

The United States has been particularly angered by what it perceives as Unesco's bias against Israel and its current campaign to introduce a "new world information order", regarded as an attempt at international press censorship.

The US departure will be a serious financial blow to Unesco, which relies on the United States to contribute about one-quarter of its annual budget. Earlier this year, America had been the only member to vote against Unesco's 1984-85 budget, amounting to $374m (about £250m).

American officials said the Administration would be prepared to reconsider its decision

Why America quit 4
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if Unesco took steps in the coming year to change its ways. It was emphasized that the United States regarded its departure as temporary and reserved the right to rejoin once reforms had been carried out.

Anxious the counter criticism that withdrawal could harm Unesco's many constructive activities, the State Department said the United States would continue to further international cooperation in education, science, culture and communications, either working with individual governments or through the private sector.

At the *United Nations in* New York, the decision was met with regret and concern from Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, who hoped that a way could be found for the United States to remain a member of Unesco before the deadline was reached.

The UN leader said that, in his contacts with Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the US representative at the UN, he had emphasized the adverse affects withdrawal would have on the UN principle of universality of membership.

Diplomats said the Secretary-General's restrained tone meant he still left open the possibility that the United States could be persuaded to change its mind.

In Paris, Unesco officials said Mr Mbow was on holiday and they refused to comment publicly on the US decision but privately they admitted it was a threat to Unesco's future. One official said: "We hope that the US decision is really a sighting shot across our bows, giving us time to change direction."

The first challenge Mr Mbow must face is financial. A British official said: "The first thing he can do is to start to cut costs in Paris."

Western countries have long been critical of lavish spending in Paris; for example, the cost of the general conference of members' delegates this year is estimated to have been $6.4m.

"For some of the Third World representatives", a Western delegate said, "that is a chance to spend a few weeks in one of the world's most *beautiful cities* – and all at somebody else's expense. Some

Continued on back page, col 1

Simple wedding ceremony for Princess Caroline



Married in Monte Carlo: Princess Caroline, flanked by her husband Signor Stefano Casiraghi and her *father Prince Rainier*, waving to wellwishers outside Monaco's royal palace yesterday.

Only family members and close friends attended the wedding. Princess Caroline, *who will be 27* next month, wore a beige satin dress for the 20-minute civil ceremony at the palace (Reuter reports).

After the wedding, the Princess and *her new husband, a 23-year-old* Italian businessman, delighted a crowd of 1,000 as they emerged on to a palace balcony for a brief appearance.

The intimacy of yesterday's ceremony contrasted sharply with the pomp of Princess Caroline's first marriage to M Philippe Junot, a Frence businessman, in 1978, which *ended in divorce* after barely two years.

The Princess, who has reigned as Monaco's first lady since the death of her mother, Princess Grace, after a road accident last year, was given away by her father.

Soviet hint of 'change for better'

From Richard Owen
Moscow

The Supreme Soviet (Russia's Parliament) yesterday condemned the Reagan Administration's "reckless and bellicose policies" but said Moscow would seek a "change for the better" in world affairs at next month's disarmament *conference in Stockholm*.

A resolution signed by President Andropov and passed on the final day of the two-day session in the Kremlin did *not* say whether Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign *Minister*, would attend the Stockholm conference. Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, has already said he will go.

Western diplomats believed, however it was almost certain Mr Gromyko would attend the Stockholm conference in person, and said a meeting with Mr Shultz was highly probable.

Yesterday's statement, passed in Mr Andropov's absence, instructed the Soviet Government to "ensure the security of the Soviet Union and its allies" and to take steps "which, with due account for changing circumstances now taking place, would lead to a change for the better in the international situation".

Moscow has said it will retaliate for the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe. The statement said the deployments were part of America's desire to "upset the military equlibrium".

Observers noted that the statement contained no new initiatives, and said this was because Mr Andropov had provided no guidelines. Observers had expected Mr *Gromyko* to fill the gap at the Supreme Soviet but he did not

President Andropov has been seriously ill. His absence has affected the functioning of Soviet government, although his policies are still being pushed through.

Yesterdays resolution was proposed by Mr Boris Ponomaryov, a second-ranking figure in the leadership. Some Western observers ascribe considerable influence to him behind the scenes but there is little evidence of this.

Soldiering on, page 4

Alliance told to get ready for coalition

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen has used his *new year message* to the Social Democrats to warn his party and the Alliance to prepare to work in a coalition government after the next general election.

Dr Owen tells the SDP that if the economy recovers between now and the next election Mrs Margaret Thatcher will probably win it, but that if decline continues Britain will face a grim prospect, for by then North Sea oil revenue will be falling sharply.

In those circumstances, the SDP leader says, *the Alliance* must be ready to provide the clear *leadership* for which the country would yearn ... "ready to create a credible, coherent, coalition government".

Dr Owen's admission of the likelihood of another Consevative win, given economic recovery, may surprise some in his party, if only because it is contained in the new year *rallying call*, which is traditionally upbeat.

The sentence in which it was contained, although appearing in the version of Dr Owen's message which was released by the SDP to the press, was removed from the version which was published in *The Social Democrat*, the party's newspaper

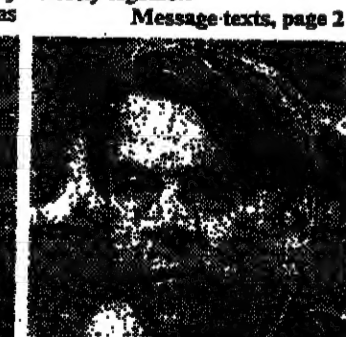
Dr Owen himself, it was learnt last night, removed it, not because it did not represent his view but because he wanted to develop it more fully in a newspaper article

But Dr Owen *is increasingly* talking about the possibiWlity of coalitions as he continues to resist pressure from the Liberals and within his own party for a merger between the two.

Dr Owen's and *Mr David* Steel's new year messages to their parties underlined starkly their differing visions of the future development of the Alliance.

Mr Steel, who said in his that, the Cabinet had become a "lame duck" administration and that Labour was totally unable to provide a credible alternative, refers throughout to the role of the Alliance rather than simply to that of his own party and calls on every Liberal and Social Democrat to pledge themselves to work more closely together.

Message texts, page 2



Mr Steel: "Cabinet a lame duck."

Dr Owen: "Thatcher may win again."

S Africans bomb Swapo HQ in Angola

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

Four South African aircraft have attacked the main headquarters in southern Angola of the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), General Constand Viljoen, the chief of the South Afica Defence Force, announced yesterday.

The attack on the Swapo base, situated near Lubango in south-western Angola, was carried out early yesterday, the general said. It was not a heavy attack, but it was very accurate and all the aircraft returned safely to base.

General Viljoen told a press conference at the Defence Force's headquarters in Pretoria, that the base included a defence headquarters, a Swapo trainging centre, a political indoctrination centre, a logistics *facility*, and a workshop *for* repairing military vehicles.

It was not possible to estimate the number of casualties because the base was well dug in, but it might have held *between 200 and 500* people at the time, he said "I think we sent them a message, warned them that we know about the area, and are ready to attack again *if* necessary".

The official Angolian news agency ANGOP, monitored yesterday in Lisbon, claimed that Angolian artillery shot down three South African aircraft on bombing raids over southern Angolan towns earlier this week in which many civilians were killed

General Viljoen maintained that no South African war aircraft had been lost during the current operation which, it has now been disclosed, began on December 6. Its declared aim is to forestall the rainy season thrust by Swapo guerrillas into South Africa-ruled Namibia (South-West Africa).

The general did, however, acknowledge that during "a reconnaissance flight" near Cahama in central southern Angola, South African fighter aricraft had come under fire from the latest *Soviet-made*, radar-guided ground-to-air missiles.

He produced the severed head of a Sam-9 missile which, he said, had lodged without detonating in the tail of an Impala reconnaissance aircraft.

General Viljoen said that so far nine South Africans, three whites, and six blacks, had been killed in the operation, and he put confirmed deaths among Swapo and its Cuban and Angolan allies at about 50.

Rising anger over latest shipment of UHT milk

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The squabble between Britain and its EEC partners over imports of UHT milk threatened yesterday to worsen as the Newhaven port health authority talked of prosecuting the importers and the Commission in Brussels angrily demanded explanations from the British Government.

A shipment of 22,000 litres arrived at Newhaven from Normandy yesterday morning on board the Sealink ferry Chartres.

There seemed, however, *every likelihood* that it would suffer a fate similar to that of a previous consignment which, earlier this month, was allowed to travel as far as Salisbury, Wiltshire, before being declared unfit *for human* consumption because allegedly it contained too much water.

Last month, after much procrastination, the Government finally issued regulations that ostensibly would permit imports of UHT (long-life) and sterilized milk from the Continent for the first time. That was in deference to a European *Court ruling that a continued* ban on the ground of health was illegal.

But the authorities' refusal since then to allow any Continental UHT milk to be sold in this country has evidently convinced the Commission that Britain has no intention of paying anything more than lip service to the court's decision.

Mr Poul Dalsager, the EEC Agriculture Commissioner, has written to Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, demanding an explanation no later than the third week in January.

He wants to know why Britain is demanding two separate health certificates, one relating to the absence of disease in the cattle supplying the milk and the other to its fitness for human consumption; in what precise respects the milk has failed to meet British Standards Institution requirements; and why *the whole* procedure takes so long.

Antagonists at bay: Mr *Jopling* (left) and Mr Dalsager.

Mr David Hamer, chief environmental health officer of Lewes District Council, which covers Newhaven, said yesterday that the testing procedures had his confidence.

"The public analyst was able to say that the last consignment of *milk contained* extrareous water", he said. "The new batch will remain in the harbour until we have carried out tests."

If it was also found to be below *standard* for *consumption* the authority would consider prosecuting under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Commenting last week on the *refusal to* allow *the earlier* consignment to be sold, French Dairy Farmers Ltd., the importer, said that the difference of opinion was not about standards but about testing techniques. French analysts had tested samples of the same consignment using British methods and standards, and had obtained a satisfactory result.

UHT imports are opposed by the National Farmers' Union, the Milk Marketing Board, the Dairy Trade Federation, and the trade unions.

Simonstown spy couple found guilty

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, the former commanding officer of the South African naval dockyard at Simonstown, and his wife, Ruth, were yesterday convicted in the Cape Supreme Court of high treason on charges of spying for the Soviet Union. High treason carries a maximum penalty of death by hanging.

It is expected that evidence in mitigation will be given today, after which the sentence may be passed, either today or tommorrow, by the Judge-President of the Cape, Mr Justice G. G. A. Munnik.

The case against Commodore Gerhardt, the judge said, was that from 1962 until his arrest he had spied for the Soviet Union, transmitting military secrets and receiving payment.

Mrs Gerhardt had assisted her husband, acted as his courier and carried information on film to and from various places in Europe.

In his defence Commodore Gerhardt had claimed to have been spying for an unnamed power not hostile to South Africa.

Mrs Gerhardt said she had acted as a courier for her husband, believing he was a counter-intelligence agent working for a friendly country. The judge dismissed both stories.

The case has aroused wide interest in the United States and Britain where there is speculation that the Gerhardts could have passed the Russians contingency plans for use of the Simonstown naval base in the event of world war.

It has also been suggested that they could have handed over information on British weapons and might even have contributed to British naval reverses during the Falklands War.

Embassy man shot dead

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

One member of the administrative staff of the Jordanian Embasssy in Madrid was shot dead and another seriously injured yesterday by a waiting gunman as the two were leaving work in a car.

The gunman, in his twenties and of Arab appearance, escaped. Spanish police said they suspected he was a member of a dissident Palestinian faction.

Two men armed with pistols *stole* the equivalent of about £2m in notes in a bank raid just before closing time in the Gran Via here yesterday.

Charity workers head honours poll

By Robin Young

There is four times more popular support for giving New Year Honours to charity workers than to groups whose members habitually figure in the lists – local government officials, senior civil servants and nationalized industry chairmen. This is revealed in a public opinion poll conducted by MORI for *The Sunday Times* and made available exclusively to *The Times*.

A sample of 1,085 adults interviewed in 55 constituency sampling points around Britain, on December 16 were asked whether they *thought* honours should or should not be awarded to people in various categories.

Strongest support went to honouring charity workers, with 92 per cent in their favour. Only six respondents in a hundred thought charity should be its own reward.

On the other hand fewer than a fifth of respondents would make awards to nationalized industry chairmen, or trade union leaders. Three quarters of those polled were against such awards.

Scientists and doctors scored well with 85 per cent support, and awards to sports personalities were precisely twice as popular as those to former MPs and politicians.

A clear majority favoured honours to military leaders, even when there is no war on. Industrialists and businessmen were as popular recipients as entertainers, while public opinion divided almost equally for and against the idea of giving artists and musicians any encouragement.

The New Year Honours list will be published in full in The Times tomorrow.

Just over a third of respondents favoured honours to judges and lawyers, and even newspaper editors and journalists. Although opposition to both could be described as overwhelming.

Mr Robert Worcester, of MORI, said "In his Reith lectures, Sir Douglas Wass has been drawing attention to the need for civil servants and the Government to pay more attention to public opinion in the decisions they make. This poll is an indication that public honours do not always go where the public would wish".

Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, who recently drew attention to the fact that 28 directors awarded peerages or knighthoods by Mrs Margaret Thatcher since 1979, came

Continued on page 2, col 3

Austin Rover takes lead with biggest share of cars made in Britain

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

BL's Austin Rover subsidiary has had its best year since 1979, producing more than 44 per cent of all cars made in Britain, and nearly twice as many as Ford manufactured here.

Production topped 450,000 cars, compared with 390,000 in 1982. Ford maintains its leadership with more than 500,000 sales, giving it 29 per cent of the market, compared with Austin Rover's 18 per cent, but the Americans imported nearly half their cars from factories in Germany, Belgium and Spain.

With a few sales returns outstanding, Austin Rover has sold more than 320,000 cars this year, 53,000 more than last year, representing its best performance since 1979.

In the biggest British market ever, with more than 1,780,000 sales, Austin Rover sales were up by 20 per cent, compared with the overall increase of 15 per cent.

The most encouraging improvement for taxpayers, who have subsidized the company for the past decade, is in productivity. In 1979 it produced only six cars per man. Today output is more than 40 cars per man and equal to the best in Europe.

Austin Rover now has only two modernized assembly plants, Longbridge and Cowley, instead of five, and both had their best production for ten years.

Thanks largely to the Metro's success, Longbridge produced 255,000 cars compared with Cowley's 198,000. But the new LM 11 saloon's arrival next spring will further boost Cowley's output.

Mr Harold Musgrove, Austin Rover's chairman, said last night: "Our growth in the UK during the past 12 months has been achieved in the face of the fiercest competition anyone in the industry has ever known.

"We still have our upper-medium sector car to come, and we are confident that sales and output will continue to rise during 1984."

Mr John Egan, Jaguar's chairman, had some advice for those interested in bidding for the company, which is tipped to become the first BL subsidiary to return to private hands in 1984.

Writing in Jaguar's in-house magazine yesterday, he said: "Our level of investment over the next five years must be even greater than our competitor's to enable us to bring ourselves back into line."

He thought £40m a year for five years would be the minimum required, because "there are still mountains to climb." He said: "We need the investment because it is no good for us to do with sweat and tears what Mercedes-Benz achieve with machines."

Janet Webb: Glittering grand entrances.

Janet Webb dies of cancer at 53

The actress Janet Webb, once one of Britain's most famous fat people, died yesterday of cancer. She was 53.

Miss Webb, who made her name in the *Morecambe and Wise Show* in the 1970s, died in the Middlesex Hospital, London. Her husband, Mr Charles Vorzanger, a violinist, was at her bedside.

Miss Webb, who was nearly 16 stone, always stole the applause when she made her grand entrances at the end of the shows dressed on glittering and lavish gowns.

Mr Eric Morecambe said yesterday: "She worked with us for about eight years and she was a pleasure to know."

Miss Webb was keen to show that fat people could, and should, be glamorous. "What I want to get across is that a large person can be glamorous and wear outrageous things and be positive about her size", she once said.

Phone bills by instalments

By next spring residential telephone subscribers outside London will be invited to pay their telephone bills by monthly instalments through a bank account.

There are 15.5 million residential telephone subscribers in Britain, who pay on average £35 a quarter. The new budget account scheme will not be available to customers in London until 1985.

Kidnap link to McFarlane

Brendan McFarlane, a senior member of the IRA is believed to be the leader of the gang sought over the kidnapping of Mr Don Tidey, the chainstore executive.

Senior police sources in the Irish Republic said last night that McFarlane, who led last September's mass breakout from Northern Ireland's Maze prison, was linked by forensic science evidence to the kidnap.

Church attack

Vandals have smashed a stained glass window and a lighting conductor and damaged a notice board and seat in the porch of St John's Church, in Lower Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, causing damage estimated at £415.

£32,131 for Smith inquest lawyer

Ratepayers will have to pay £32,131 or £164 an hour, to the Sir David Napley, the London lawyer, for representing Dr Richard Arnot at the Helen Smith inquest.

The final figure, disclosed yesterday by Mr John Gunnell, chairman of West Yorkshire Council is about £12,000 higher than the council had estimated.

Mr Gunnell said he was shocked that the High Court assessors who vetted Sir David's "enormous" bill, and another for £13,567 from the Huddersfield firm of Fowler and Crossley which represented four German drivers, had not made a single deletion.

However the council had no option but to pay up, he said. It had originally agreed to pay all reasonable expenses so that vital witnesses could attend the inquest in Leeds last year into the death of the British nurse in Saudi Arabia.

The council had backed a long campaign by Miss Smith's father, Mr Ron Smith from Guiseley near Leeds, who insisted that she had been murdered during a party in Dr Arnot's flat in May 1979.

The first the council knew of Sir David's involvement was when he arrived in Leeds in his gold-coloured Rolls-Royce, Mr Gunnell said.

In June the council lost its fight to examine and challenge Sir David's bill for the month-long inquest, a move Mr Gunnell yesterday called monstrous.

He said Sir David's basic charges were £82 an hour, but these had been marked up 100 per cent for "care and conduct" – a legal term which, according to a law society, represented the profit and reward to Sir David's partnership on top the basic payment for handling the case.

"This is equivalent to a 40-hour week payment of £6,560, or an annual income of well over £300,000". Mr Gunnell said. The inquest had now cost a total of £90,000, about 4p a head for ratepayers.

Heseltine offers view of '1984' in CND journal

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine, secretary of State for Defence, who has consistently refused to appear on the same platform as members of the peace movement to debate defence issues, has an article in the latest edition of *Sanity*, the journal of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

He is one of five people in the January issue who gave their views on whether George Orwell's view of the future, as expressed in his satire *1984*, has come true. He is believed to be the first member of the present Government ever to have contributed to the magazine.

Earlier this month Mr Heseltine regused to appear on television with Mrs Joan Ruddock, the CND chairman to discuss the film *The Day After*.

In his article Mr Heseltine says that Orwell is giving a warning of what could happen if freedom were allowed to perish.

Orwell puts forward the prospect of constant war being waged at the periphery of three power blocs, Mr Heseltine says. The West has faced a very real and growing military threat from the Soviet Union and her allies, and has answered by forming an alliance of sovereign and independent countries.

Children of jobless 'stunted'

By David Cross

Long-term unemployment can lead to stunted growth in the children of parents who are out of work, according to a study commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The study, which was carried out by the department of utrition at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, examined nearly 10,000 children between 1981 and 1982. It found that two-year-old children of the long-term unemployed could be nearly an inch shorter than children with one or both parents at work.

The main findings of the report are due to be published next week in *New Health*, a monthly magazine devoted to fitness and health.

According to Dr Peter Fox, director of the unit responsible for the report, the differences in height occurred across social classes. It has long been a well-established fact that the health of the poor is worse than that of the better off.

Having taken into account the biological factors, all the social factors which could cause lack of growth, including social class, were "dominated by the effect of unemployment and its associated factors", Dr Fox said.

The team at the School of Hygiene, which has already looked at factors such as a mother's height, birth weight, breast feeding, quality of housing and locality, will now have to analyse the quality of food eaten by children.

According to Dr Fox, if the differences in height are associated with the environment and the environment does not change, the differences are likely to continue as the children grow older.

Bored bear: No snow, no frost, not even a chill breeze for this polar bear in London Zoo yesterday, with unseasonably mild weather persisting in Britain.

Peace talks may avert shipbuilding strike

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Peace talks aimed at averting a national strike in the shipbuilding industry open this morning against a background of mounting pessimism on the prospects of a compromise between the two sides.

Management at British Shipbuilders and leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilders and Engineering Unions have been called in for exploratory talks by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

They will not separate talks with officials of Acas who are seeking to find enough common ground to bring the two sides together for negotiations on a formula to prevent more tha 60,000 manual workers being called out on official strike on January 6.

British Shipbuilders is insisting that there can be no moving away from the management's "survival plan" which requires radical concessions on job flexibility and an end to restrictive work practices. The union demand that changes must be "at an agreed pace".

The countdown to a strike comes as fresh troubles afflict the state shipyards. Scott Lithgow, on the Clyde, is running into new difficulties with its only remaining order, having missed delivery dates for a £60m rig for BP.

The yard risks penalty payments of £19,000 a day, backdated to last February, and have asked the oil company for an extention to allow the contract for semi-submersible unit to be completed by March 9.

This latest blow follows cancellation of a £88m rig order by Britoil 10 days ago, and Scott Lithgow's 4,500 workforce could be made redundant

The future of another yard, Cammell Laird in Berkenhead, Merseyside, also hangs on today's peace move. More than 3,500 men at the yard voted by two to one to join next week's threatened strike despite warnings from the managing director Mr Alastair Lambie.

Cammell Laird's future hinges on its ability to win a £100m order to build a rig for Sun Oil of America.

Harrods bomb victim buried

Mrs Jasmine Kennedy-Cochrane-Patrick, aged 25, who was killed by the Harrods bomb, was buried in a quiet ceremony in west of Scotland village yesterday.

About 150 mourners gathered in St Andrew's Church, West Kilbride for the short funeral service, during which the Rev Arthur Fletcher referred to the IRA bombing as an "obscene distortion of Christmas".

He told the congregation: "Today we cannot speak of Jasmine's death without the realization that it was the result of the evil, indiscriminate and murderous tactics of a group of people who care nothing for the feelings, the principles or the values of those whom they seek to impress.

"Their cause grows weaker, not stronger as they hope, whenever they launch an attack of this kind.

"We cry out against, condemn and call accursed in the sight of God, our creator and theirs, the inhuman violent crimes they commit in a cause which they pretended has to do with freedom."

Mrs Kennedy-Cochrane-Patrick was shopping in Knightsbridge before returning to Scotland to spend Christmas with her husband, Nigel, aged 26, and son, James, aged 2½, when the bomb exploded.

She had spent three months working in London as a trainee stockbroker and hoped to find a job in Glasgow next year.

After the burial Mr Kennedy-Cochrane-Patrick said he did not want to comment on the bombing. "There is nothing I could say that would make any difference to what people think of this kind of thing."

● An inquest was opened at Westminster coroner's court in London yesterday into the death of Inspector Stephen Dodd, aged 34, another victim of the Harrods bombing.

Party leaders' new year messages

Owen rejects Orwell's nightmare view

The following is a partial text of Dr David Owen's new year message to the Social Democratic Party:

It is inevitable, perhaps, that in this new year minds will turn to Orwellian prophecy.

For many, Orwell's grim predictions seem happily wide of the mark. A fifth of mankind live in open and reasonably tolerant societies, enjoying standards of personal consumption, health, education and welfare which would have seemed utopian even a couple of generations ago.

Sadly, it also true that, in large sections of the globe, human rights are violated on a scale quite as vast as in Orwell's nightmare. War and conflict are just as much the norm as he foresaw. And added to the possibility of conflict between rival super powers, armed with weapons of total destruction, is the gap between rich and poor, which poses as serious a threat to world peace as any ideological conflict.

So 1984 starts with sombre thoughts and with opinion polls revealing a deep mood of pessimism in Britain bordering on fatalism.

We should take heart, however, from the fact that though our problems, both national and global, are grave, mankind remains master of its own destiny. On the great issues of world poverty and disarmament there is a constructive way ahead, if statesmen and governments will only find the courage and vision for concerted action.

Social Democracy has, almost as its lode-star, a rejection of Orwellian pessimism and a belief that we can, both as a country and a world community, organize for peace, maximize the freedom of the individual and work to provide not just a better standard of living for our immediate family, but for all.

It is to reversing Britain's relative economic decline that we must set our sights, to urgently learn from those countries who practice cooperation in their economic and industrial affairs and who outstrip us in wealth and job creation.

Though 1984 fortunately looks a bit brighter for the economy, there are storm clouds ahead for 1986. Regrettably, it looks likely that the next election will once more be fought against a background of further decline.

If that proves not to be the case, the Conservatives will probably win, but with a reduced mamority.

Should the decline continue, Britain will be facing a grim prospect, for by then North Sea oil revenue will be falling sharply. In such circumstances, our Alliance must be ready ot provide the clear leadership for which the country will yearn.

In 1984, as a party, we have chosen to focus on three domestic campaigning themes: the defence of the National Health Service, the promotion of fair voting and explaning coalition governments, and the extension of opportunities for women; 1984 will also provide a test of our internationalism, particularly in the European Parliamentary elections, where we will be campaigning jointly again with the Liberals.

Steel calls Tory leaders 'the second eleven'

The following is the partial text of Mr David Steel's new year message to the Liberal Party:

In 1984 the Alliance must concentrate all its energies on providing a constructive and united opposition to the Conservatives. This crucial task falls to us not only because of the failure of the government but because of the total inability of Labour to provide a credible alternative.

Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet have the dubious distinction of having become a "lame duck" administration within six months of their election victory. There is no sense of purpose or direction. The only thing that holds them together is the Prime Minister's obstinacy. This is a recipe for wary inaction at the very time when new movement in required.

Abroad, the British Government can play a constructive role in generating a new disarmament initiative, built around the concept of a mutual and verifiable freeze. In the Middle East, it could help get Mr Reagan and the Allies off the hook of a counter-productive military involvement in Lebanon and back to the negotiating table.

In Europe, the time has come for British vision and statesmanship to rebuild the Community. In the South Atlantic, the election of a democratic government in Argentina now means that we have the chance to put the past behind us and abandon the expensive folly of Fortress Falklands. Yet at every point, our government, which should be taking constructive action, has dug itself in behind fixed positions.

It is the same story at home, too. Obstinacy rules. Two examples will suffice: Mrs Thatcher and her Chancellor cling to monetarism long after it has been discredited, thus they refuse to step up public investment to recreate our shringing capital base.

The same doctrinaire hostility to public expenditure has led then to inflict untold damage to democratic local government

This is a government led by the second eleven of the Tory Party. Most of the first eleven have been retired hurt, leaving a government totally dominated by a Prime Minister who allies personal self-cerainty to a complete lack of compassion and imagination.

It is a government which deserves to be harried and pursued by an effective opposition. But Labour cannot play this role. Poor Mr Kinnock has already found that when public relations has to give way to policy he has nothing to say –, as he showed so painfully over the NGA and Brent Council.

The truth is that the Alliance is now the only chance of a progressive alternative government at the next election. 1984 will decide whether we can rise to tha considerable challenge. Naturally, after a hard-fought election, there have been a few months during which we have been seeking new bearings for the new Parliament.

But our task in now clear. Having established the principles for candidate selection, both parties at grassroots level must complete the process as quickly as possible.

Hebden repeats fine chess form

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Hastings

Mark Hebden, the young Leicester player who did so well last year at Hastings, seems to be in fine form in the Ace Fifty-ninth International Chess Congress in Hastings this year.

He followed his quick win against Nigel Short in the first round on Wednesday by beating the American grandmaster, Dimitri Gurevich, in no uncertain manner in the second round yesterday, and thus leads in the premier tournament with two points out of a possible two.

Gurevich was outplayed in the early middle game and had to surrender first one Bishop and then another, resigning when he was two pieces down.

Most of the other games ended in early draws but three were adjourned after five hours' play. In one Ftacnik had a level position against Ivanov though the American master had some attack on the King side when the game was adjourned.

The Romanian Suba was a pawn to the good against Andrew Martin and it looked as though the English player had insufficient play for the pawn.

Mestel always looked better placed against the Hungarian grandmaster, Sax, and on adjournment he had a fairly easy win in a Rook and pawn ending.

Short's first-round game against Hebden was a disaster. He used a somewhat slow variation of the Ruy Lopez, reminiscent of Steinitz's play a hundred years ago, he seemed to have equality at least when he blundered by moving his Knight to the wrong square.

The game between Ivanov and Suba was postponed because both players arrived late.

Results in round 1: Ftacnik ½, Alburt ½, English opening, 23 moves; Martin ½, Speelman ½, QP Nimzo Indian defence, 18; Mestel 0, Kudrin 1, Sicilian defence, 57; Short 0, Hebden 1, Ruy Lopez, 22; Gurevich 0, Csom 1, Queen's gambit declined, exchange variation, 29; Karlsson ½, Sax ½, English opening, 42; game between Ivanov and Suba postponed.

Results in round 2: Alburt ½, Csom ½, Queen's gambit declined, Catalan system, 19 moves; Hebden 1, Gurevich 0, Pirc defence, 34; Kudrin ½, Short ½, Pirc defence, 16; Sax ad against Mestel, Sicilian defence, 40; Speelman ½, Karlsson ½, English opening, 14; Suba ad against Martin, QP Queen's Indian defence, 40; Ftacnik ad against Ivanov, QP King's Indian defence, 42.

Poll backs honours for charity work

Continued from page 1

from companies which had contributed more than £2.75m to Conservative Party funds, said: "I would expect a sizable proportion to favour awards to businessmen, because although the public thinks British management is incompetent, they are put in awe of them by items in the newspapers and company advertising.

"Nationalized industry chairmen should have a better claim because they have onerous jobs, poorly paid by general industrial standards, and have the extra cross to bear of a close working relationship with the Prime Minister, which means they are bullied all the time."

Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, said that lawyers got relatively few honours and probably deserved no more. "No one I ever recommend gets one anyway", he said. Mr David Tench, legal officer of the Consumers' Association, said that it was "not a year to honour lawyers. We have had abysmal utterances from several judges, and little in the way of upholding individual liberties."

Mr Hugh Belshaw, finance director of Oxfam, said: "Charity work should bring its own satisfaction, I can imagine the public would support honours for charity workers, but it should not be a token gesture."

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said: "I once recommended somebody for a award, but would never do so again. The present system is archaid and discredited. Why should trade union leaders be honoured anyway?"

Anaysis of the poll findings reveals that young people, aged 18 to 24, were notably more favourable to giving honours than the population at large. Groups who won special favour with the young were sports people (65 per cent); journalists (40 per cent); and lawyers (44 per cent). They were also more generously disposed toward nationalized industry chairmen (24 per cent in favour) and senior civil servants (29 per cent).

Men were more favourable than women to honours for politicians, businessmen and trade union leaders. Women looked more kindly upon the claims of local community workers and scientists. Class differences were few, but politicians and industrialists were more popular with the middle classes, and sports personalities with the skilled working class.

Conservative voters were almost universally more favourably disposed to giving honours than Labour voters. They especially favoured the claims of industrialists (62 per cent Conservative support against 39 per cent Labour); the military (63 to 51); artists (54 to 42); lawyers (47 to 32) and politicians (39 to 27). Notalby, even most Labour voters favoured honours to military leaders.

Deserving of Honours?

At the New Year the Queen will again award honours to people who have provided services to the country . . . . do you think honours should or should not be awarded to . . . .

Should ■ Should not ▒ ("Don't knows" omitted)

People for charitable work?
People for local community service?
Scientist and Doctors
Sportsmen and women?
Military leaders?
Industrialists and businessmen?
Entertainers?
Artists and musicians?
Judges and Lawyers?
Journalists and Editors
Former MPs and Politicians?
Local Government Officials?
Senior Civil Servants
Nationalised Industry Chairmen?
Trade Union Leaders?

% 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Technical note: The survey was conducted by MORI (Market & Opinion Research International) for The Sunday Times among a sample of 1,000 adults, 18 plus, interviewed face-to-face in 56 constituency sampling points throughout Great Britain on Friday 16 December 1983.

© MORI/Sunday Times

Woman and friend shot dead

A double murder hunt was launched, yesterday after a young woman and a man friend were shot dead in a caravan.

Rosalind Richards, aged 18, a part-time barmaid, was found half-naked beside the blood-soaked bed. Her friend, Rodney Pellow, aged 32, a farmer was sprawled naked across the bed.

Both had been shot twice, in the head and body, with a 12-bore shotgun. They were found on Wednesday by Matthew Rodgers, aged five, who lives in a cottage a few yards from the caravan in a hamlet near Manaccan on the Lizard peninsula, Cornwall.

Miss Richards was the seventh of eight children. Ploice officers are checking all her known associates and those of Mr Pellow, a divorced former merchant navy man who lived at Coverack nearby.

Senior detectives, including the head of Devon and Cornwall CID, Det Chief Supt John Bissett, were flown to the remote scene by helicopter.

Miss Richards and Mr Pellow met only recently and on Boxing night he attended a party given at the caravan. They are belived to have been killed when he returned there the next day.

Thatcher's chicken for charity

Mrs Margaret Thatcher often boils a plump fowl when she prepares supper at No 10 Downing Street.

She then beats up two egg yolks with cream and sherry, thickens the mixture over a low heat and pours it on the cold chicken.

The result is Cold Chicken Veronique, Mrs Thatcher's contribution to a new cookery book published by the National Westminster Bank in aid of the Save the Children Fund.

The Prime Minister recommends grated lemon peel for the sauce which should gradually thicken as the dish cools. She suggests an accompaniment of rice salad.

"This is one of her favourite dishes which she likes to cook herself in the flat at No 10", a Downing Street aide said.

Other contributions are Welsh cakes, from Sir Harry Secome, and "chip butties", from Terry Wogan.

Branch Out With Cookery (Save the Children Fund, £2.50).

Overseas selling prices

Austria Sch 28; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 130; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.25; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 120; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 7.00; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 120; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pes 150; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.50; Yugoslavia Din 135

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Conservative MP seeks random breath tests to reduce road deaths

By Michael Horsnell

A call for the introduction of random breath tests to reduce death and injury on the roads was made yesterday by Mr Stephen Norris, Conservative MP for Oxford East.

It followed a complaint on Tuesday by a Conservative colleague, Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak that the police had been "hounding" motorists during the Christmas holiday with unjustified breath tests, and moving quietly towards random ones.

Mr Norris said there was evidence that in other countries such as Sweden, where random tests are allowed, that road deaths involving drink-driving had been cut.

"The drink-driving laws in Sweden are so tight that virtually no one uses a car if he has been drinking", he said.

He did not believe random testing to be an infringement of personal liberty. People already accepted that they were liable to be stopped for roadside checks on the condition of their car, and speed traps were also random.

The Home Office said yesterday that the police were not at liberty to conduct random tests.

A national survey of Christmas holiday breath-testing will not be available until next week but further evidence of differing attitudes to it by police forces throughout the country emerged.

Nottinghamshire police, which denied allegations of random testing, said that in the first 10 days of the Christmas campaign 3,006 drivers were tested but only 49 were found to be over the limit.

In neighbouring Licolnshire, however, the police tested only 77 drivers, of whom 15 were over the limit.

Thames Valley Police, which cover Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, reported a 30 per cent increase in breath tests on the number conducted last Christmas. During the six days to December 27, 470 drivers suspected of drink-driving offences were checked and of these 88 proved positive.

In the West Midlands 143 drivers gave positive breath tests in the seven days to December 28, seven fewer than in the same period last year.

Police forces throughout the country said that stringent checks would be continued during the new year.

Despite the police crackdown breweries are reporting a "satisfactory" Christmas from early returns, but with large regional variations.

Wales, where two licensing districts were the only areas in Europe in which public houses and hotels could not serve drinks on Christmas Day because it fell on a Sunday, appeared among the worst hit. In the North-west, however, trade was described as buoyant despite high unemployment.

Tolly Cobbold, the East Anglian brewery which covers areas where motorists were jailed for drink-driving offences, said that the police crackdown had had no noticeable effect on beer sales in public houses. Stocks of non-alcoholic lager had had to be replenished before Christmas after an unexpectedly big demand.

Arthritis drug ban demanded

By Thomson Prentice

The Committee on Safety of Medicines is continuing to review anti-arthritis pain killers containing phenylbutazone and oxyphenbutazone, which the United States Government was asked yesterday to ban immediately because of serious side effects.

A consumer protection group in Washington called for the ban on two products, Burazolidin and Tanderil, saying that their side effects could have led to more than 10,000 deaths worldwide.

The drugs are available under prescription in Britain and have been associated with 573 British deaths since 1964. Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health, is awaiting the outcome of the safety committee's review of the products before considering whether they should be withdrawn.

Doctors have been warned for some years in product information sheets that the drugs have been linked with gastro-intestinal intolerance and bleeding and blood disorders. About one million prescriptions are issued each year.

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that the drug manufacturer, the Swiss-owned Ciba-Geigy, were cooperating fully with the inquiry from the British laboratories at Horsham, West Sussex.

Mr Clarke said in the House of Commons two weeks ago: "I am aware of public concern about this matter and the safety committee has products in this class under close review."

He disclosed in a written answer that 1,685 cases of suspected adverse reaction to Butazolidin, including 442 deaths, and 503 reports of suspected adverse reaction to Tanderil, including 131 deaths, had been reported to the committee.

Ciba-Geigy said in Basle yesterday that the company would contest any attempt to remove the two drugs from the market. An official said they had been supplied to 180 million patients since 1952.

"We have had casualties, put at about 1,200, but we do not know whether the drugs were the direct reason.

Remarriage scheme faces clergy boycott

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church of England's new scheme for remarrying divorcees in church may be boycotted by many of the clergy if big changes are not made to the procedure, the Church Union, representing Anglo-Catholics in the church, said yesterday.

As many as a third of the parochial clergy may be unable to accept the scheme as it stands, the Church Union's executive said in a policy statement. Some will refuse even to read the banns of marriage of divorced persons, which they are legally obliged to do, and the Church Union says it will support them in that decision.

The present proposals have had a long and bitter passage through the General Synod and are due to return there for final approval in February.

The changes that the Church Union says would be necessary before Anglo-Catholics could support the scheme have been rejected at earlier stages despite veiled hints that a boycott would take place if there was no accommodation to Anglo-Catholic attitudes. That threat has now been made explicit.

The executive of the Church Union is demanding that the scheme should be made acceptable to clergy who regard marriage as indissoluble, but who could operate with a system like that in the Roman Catholic Church for annulling marriages in certain cases.

Where a marriage could be judged not to have existed in the first place, despite a legal ceremony, such clergy would cooperate in a "second" marriage.

Yesterday's statement listed the changes, calling them "substantial", which the General Synod would have to make to the scheme to win that degree of cooperation.

"We advise priests not to take part in the proposed procedures unless they are substantially amended", the Church Union's policy statement said. "We trust that no bishop will authorize, and no priest will solemnize, a "second marriage" except in rare cases where it can be established beyond all reasonable doubt that the previous union was not a true and binding marriage."

The union's most serious criticism of the proposed procedure is the absence of any criteria by which the bishop and his panel of advisers will judge whether to allow a second marriage in church.

New British satellite to act as radio mail box

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Radio enthusiasts around the world who are equipped with the appropriate electronic gadgetry and a home computer will be able to send electronic mail to each other using the memory of a new satellite to be launched in March next year.

The satellite, being assembled against a tight 80-day schedule by a team led by Surrey University, will have a memory of about 50,000 words, enabling it to serve as an electronic mail box for more than 5,000 radio amateurs, schools, colleges and computer owners.

UOSAT-B, as it is called, is the second satellite to be built by the university. The first, UOSAT-1, was launched in October, 1981, and has been highly successful in transmitting test scientific information.

The new satellite will conduct about ten experiments; the others include particle experiments on the radiation in the magnetic envelop around the Earth, and the transmission of pictures of the Earth.

It will be launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on a Delta rocket from the Western Test Range, Vandenberg, in California into an orbit 435 miles above the Earth. It will be above the horizon for several orbits in the morning and evening for a maximum of 14 minutes.

Film on handicapped upsets resort

Hoteliers in the seaside resort of Teignmouth, Devon, have attacked a Yorkshire Television decision to screen a documentary next Tuesday, which they say will resurrect controversy about holidays for the mentally handicapped.

They say it will affect bookings at a time when they are spending thousands of pounds on advertising.

The controversy came to a head last summer when Mr Brian Rix, the actor and secretary-general of Mencap, the charity for the mentally handicapped called some Teignmouth hoteliers and restaurant owners heartless for not admitting the handicapped.

The Yorksire doumentary, *A Summer Holiday*, will show Staff Nurse Neil Channon checking in shops and cafés in Teignmouth to find out whether his patients would be allowed in.

Mr Don Riddell, Mayor of Teignmouth, said: "It is disgusting to drag it all up again".

Mrs Margaret Fresco, a restaurant owner, said: "We were told the documentary would be going out last September ... why wait until now when it will hit us hardest?"



Brian Rix: criticism of hoteliers

Edinburgh Festival loses £150,000

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Next year's Edinburgh Festival may face cash problems. This year's event made a £150,000 loss, the largest deficit since its launching 36 years ago.

A wayward computer and an unpopular programme brochure were two of the chief reasons for the loss. Mr Tom Morgan, Lord Provost of Edinburgh and chairman of the Festival Society, said yesterday. But the event was a popular success and attracted record audiences.

The festival would be asking the city council, the Arts Council, and any other bodies willing to help. "There will be a very determined effort to ensure that the result from this year will not adversely affect the 1984 festival, and to ensure that our new director does not suffer because of it", Mr Morgan said.

"This loss is a drop in the ocean in comparison with the advantages brought by the festival to Edinburgh. It is of tremendous benefit to the city as an artistic event and one which has made it known all over the world."

The festival has no formal way of dealing with the deficit. It had planned for a loss this year, but that was covered by its £50,000 reserves.

If the additional grants from local authorities and the Arts Council whittle away the money for artists next year, Mr Frank Dunlop, the new director, may be unable to carry out his plans to expand the festival's theatrical side. His predecessor, Mr John Drummond, resigned because he felt that the festival was underfunded.

Edinburgh City Council plans to give the festival £560,000 next year, compared with £495,000 this year. Critics of the council say the grant is minuscule when contrasted with the millions which the festival and its visitors bring to the city.

The largest loss, £35,000, came from the new-style 350-page programme, costing £1.50, of which about twenty thousand remained unsold.

The computer ticket sales system did not work properly in time to cope with demand and temporary ticket staff had to be hired at a cost of £10,000. A further £10,000 loss was recorded on art exhibitions and the same amount was spent filling Mr Drummond's job.

Mr Morgan said that most of the problems which led to this year's deficit would not be repeated next year. "I would not expect the problems with the programme to be repeated. The new computer unfortunatley did not have long enough to run in to handle the rush of tickets. Next year that will be provided for."

Satisfied customer: Miss Betty Creech, of West Hampstead, London, with one of her friends yesterday in Regent's Park, where she regularly feeds the squirrels and birds. (Photograph: John Voos).

Warning on home sale incentives

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Young couples buying new "starter" homes are sometimes losing thousands of pounds when they sell, particularly if they have to sell in the first year or two, the Anglia Building Society says in a review of this year's housing market.

Small "starter" homes, often one-bedroom maisonettes, have become so popular that prices have risen sharply, but some first-time buyers have experienced difficulties when they have needed to sell earlier than expected, Mr Peter Moreton, Anglia's chief surveyor, writes.

Second-hand "starter" homes do not have the benefit of incentive packages to help in selling them and losses of £2,000 and upwards had been incurred; in one case the loss was £6,500.

Incentive packages from builders, such as new furniture, carpets, and kitchens, as well as cheap mortgages, he says, often make "starter" homes attractive. But second-hand kitchen equipment does not command a good price, and the other incentives, such as cheap mortgages and free legal work and stamp duty, are not available on resale.

According to estate agents, incentives for the new home are reflected in the price, which in effect overvalues the house.

The Anglia has noted that in the East Midlands some resales are £4,500 less than the new price. On one estate in the South-east, the package price of a one-bedroom maisonette stood at £31,000, whereas the second-hand resale figure just obtained for a similar dwelling was £24,500.

In Hampshire, a price drop of £3,000 was reported, with similar losses noted in other regions throughout the country. Mr Moreton said that the Anglia was not telling people not to buy "starter" homes, but advising them to understand the difficulties that might arise.

Mr Moreton says the message for first-time buyers is a clear one: "Check the local housing market and how used "starter" homes are faring". Modern second-hand houses, typically the suburban "semis" which were not long ago the barometer and backbone of the housing market, were not as popular this year as new property.

"Plenty of bargains are still around in this sector, but they tend to get overlooked by first-time buyers who show a strong preference to buy new, often smaller, properties with all the latest innovations."

Overall, the Angia reported that house prices had increased by 9 per cent this year, the biggest rise for three years. New house prices went up by 8.5 per cent, pre-1919 houses by 9.5 per cent, and modern second-hand houses by 8.2 per cent.

£1,000 fine for flight outburst

An American engineer, Leonard Dobrowski, aged 37, was fined £1,000 yesterday with an alternative of 90 days' imprisonment after admitting that he had acted in a manner likely to endanger an aircraft. Uxbridge magistrates heard that on a Boeing 707 flight from Washington to Heathrow Mr Dobrowski shouted that there was a bomb on board. The crew had to restrain him and he struck a duty officer.

Mr P. E. Honke, for the defence, said his client, who had been drinking heavily, had a nightmare in which someone placed a bomb in his luggage.

Deafness risk to teenagers

By Kenneth Gosling

High noise levels from personal hi-fi equipment, home headsets and from discotheques are creating a serious risk of impaired hearing to young people in later life.

The warning was given yesterday by the country's four leading organizations helping deaf people. Mr Harry Cayton, director of the National Deaf Children's Society, the charity most in contact with the age group exposed to discotheque noise, said: "There is increasing evidence that prolonged exposure to loud music can cause permanent damage to health."

The organization make the point, timely in view of the popularity of personal hi-fis as gifts, that young people frequently set the volume too high.

Mr Clayton says that the high sensitivity of headphones and use with power amplifiers raises their potential for damage.

The development of portable cassette recorders has increased the risk, he says, by extending the use of headphones to outside the home.

About two to three thousand young people every year might be suffering damage to their hearing, the most vulnerable age groups being those in their early teens through to the early twenties.

About half attend discotheques and many more are exposed regularly to high levels of amplified music.

In industry, the charities say, 90 decibels for eight hours is considered harmful to hearing. But in discotheques the noise levels often exceed 100 decibels.

Boy dies after eating pen top

A boy aged six who swallowed a sweet-flavoured plastic pen top at his home on Christmas Day died in hospital yesterday.

Matthew Chambers had been on a life support machine in the intensive care unit at Southampton General Hospital after being flown there from his home on the Isle of Wight.

He had swallowed the top from a scented felt-tip pen given to him as a present.

Matthew, of Fleming Close, Binstead, near Ryde, youngest of five children, is thought to have ruptured a lung when he swallowed the top, which he had been sucking.

Divorce for top lawyer

Mr George Carman, QC, was granted an undefended divorce from his second wife, Frances, aged 33, in the London Divorce Court yesterday, on the grounds of her adultery with an unamed man. They were married in 1976.

Mr Carman, aged 54, has defended such clients as Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, and Mr Peter Adamson, the actor.

Doctor's funeral

The funeral of Dr Leonard Arthur, who became ill 18 months after his trial at Leicester Crown Court in 1981, when he was cleared of the attempted murder of a Down's syndrome baby, took place at St Michael's Church, Church Broughton, Derbyshire, yesterday.

Search fails

Police and coastguards have abandoned their search for Mr David Scarf, aged 40, who is thought to have fallen over a cliff while ferreting on the Isle of Wight. He has been missing from his home at Freshwater since Wednesday.

Appeal for blood

Blood banks serving London and the Home Counties who are facing a severe shortage of the most common blood type, have appealed to blood group 'O' donors to help to replenish dwindling supplies.

Emergency clinics 'a success'

By David Cross

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service, which has for the first time run an emergency service during the Christmas and new year period, said yesterday that the experiment had been a great success.

Mrs Diane Munday, for the organization, said that two of the three clinics which were open yesterday for abortion and sterilization operations were fully booked and that advisory and referral branches had been busy dealing with inquiries about pregnancy tests, abortions and morning-after birth control pills.

The service normally closes its five nursing homes and 30 advisory branches for up to a fortnight between Christmas Eve and the New Year. But this year the organization made arrangements for a limited service to operate during the holiday period for women who were worried that they might become pregnant during the festivities.

The nursing homes were also open so that women could take advantage of their husbands being at home to look after the family while they were having an abortion.

Mrs Munday cited Luton and Bournemouth as two branches which had had particularly busy periods this week.

On Wednesday, the Bournemouth branch received 25 inquiries during the five hours that it was open and made 19 appointments, including 11 for possible abortions, four for pregnancy tests, two for post-abortion checks and two for vasectomies. Its 24-bed nursing home in Doncaster carried out 26 abortions and six vasectomies yesterday.

Shadow of absent Andropov

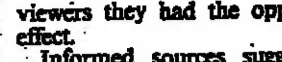
Supreme Soviet soldiers on

From Richard Owen
Moscow

As the Supreme Soviet ended its two-day winter session yesterday with no sign of President Andropov, the Kremlin launched a concerted campaign to divert attention from his absence and demonstrate that he is in full control. The Supreme Soviet, Russia's Parliament, passed a resolution signed by Mr Andropov condemning the Reagan Adminstration but calling for an improvement in the international atmosphere. The Supreme Soviet also approved the 1984 budget, which provides for a rise in Soviet living standards, including a growth in real incomes of three and a half per cent.

There was no discussion of new laws governing labour discipline, however, and no keynote speech by a senior Kremlin leader on foreign policy. Observers said the somewhat perfunctory nature of the proceedings was due to Mr Andropov's absence.

In an attempt to give the impression that Mr Andropov remains firmly in charge the Soviet media yesterday gave only brief reports of the Supreme Soviet session, concentrating instead on factory meetings at which Mr Andropov was nominated as a candidate for next March's Government elections. Television reports, with portraits of Mr Andropov and constant invocations of his name to loud applause, seemed designed to dispel suspicions about his health, although for some viewers they had the opposite effect.



His master's voice: Mr Boris Ponomaryov delivering the foreign policy statement in President Andropov's absence.

Informed sources suggested yesterday that the significance of Mr Andropov's absence from the Central Committee plenum on Monday and Tuesday, and from the Supreme Soviet which followed, had been exaggerated, since the Soviet leader had effectively dominated both meetings without being present.

Mr Andropov's speech in absentia on Monday has become the touchstone for all party and Goverment discussions this week. In it Mr Andropov stringently critcized incompetence and inefficiency and called for higher productivity, more and better consumer goods and "the all round perfection of the entire mechanism of management."

Officials at the Supreme Soviet told correspondents that Mr Andropov was in hospital, and had suffered a temporary relapse after recovering from an unspecified illness. They said he was alert and following Government business closely. Diplomats were sceptical, however, noting that Mr Andropov had been absent for five months and had failed to reappear even when the Supreme Soviet session was delayed for one month until the very end of the year. Mr Andropov is believed to have had kidney surgery, although officials denied this.

In speeches which referred repeatedly to Mr Andropov's Monday speech economic officials at the Supreme Soviet outlined a programme designed to yield an annual growth rate of four per cent, twice last year's rate, and a considerable improvement on the sluggish Brezhnev years.

Mr Vasily Garbuzov, the Finance Minister, said Soviet defences would be strengthened, and announced a defence budget of just over 17bn roubles (£15,450m at the official exchange rate).

Mr Nikolai Baibakov, the head of the State Planning Committee said oil output would go up by five million tonnes and gas output by 43bn cubic metres. Both oil and gas production have been high this year and will increase in 1984 with western Siberia providing over half of the total.

In his only personal contribution to the session President Andropov sent a message to deputies yesterday wishing them a happy new year. It seems unlikely, however, that he will deliver the traditional new year message on television.

US tightens security at home and abroad



Manning the barricades: Erecting security barriers on a pavement outside the White House.

Tough tactics to combat terror

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A fudamental reappraisal of American military tactics across the world is likely to emerge as a result of the critical Pentagon investigation into the Beirut suicide bombing, which killed 241 US soldiers on October 23.

President Reagan's reference to the new phenomenon of state-supported terrorism has surprised several commentators. As early as January, 1981, Mr Alexander Haig, Mr Reagan's first Secretary of State, cited international terrorism as America's principal foreign-policy concern. An accusing finger was frequently pointed at Libya.

For some time, the Pentagon has been working on ideas for quick-reaction anti-terrorist squad which could be deployed anywhere in the world, but progress has been slow. Most of the original impetus for such an elite resulted from the bungled attempt to rescue the American hostages from the US Embassy in Tehran in 1980.

Praise is showered by the US military on Britain's Special Air Services, which, with its Israeli equivalent, is regarded as the best kind in the world. A similar group exists in America and almost certainly went ashore in Grenada before the invasion.

Its lack of success in gaining intelligence information was denomstrated by the failure of American troops to locate US students on the island for 36 hours after the main invasion. The under-estimation by the Americans of the extent of opposition was another indication of poor intelligence-gathering.

The US Army is severely stretched, with 40 per cent of personnel abroad. After the Tehran debacle, a commission of inquiry under retired Admiral James Holloway made specific anti-terrorist recommendations not dissimilar to those from the present Pentagon team, headed by retired Admiral Robert Long. The Pentagon has therefore been considering the creation of a division of 10,000 men for "firemen" duties as in Grenada.

Attention is being focused on the inadequate intelligence. operations in Beirut, cited by the Long commission. The White House blames the Carter Administration, which imposed strict curbs on the Central Intelligence Agency against spying on Americans abroad, carrying out assassinations and other anti-terrorist activities.

The intelligence operation in Lebanon was especially curtailed although it has regained some ground under the Reagan Administration.

The Long commission said it's most important message was that terrorism had become "tantamount to an act of war" and that the US military was ill-equipped to fight it.

It is probable that the White House will recast American tactics in Lebanon as a priority, while reviewing tactics worldwide. The President, in hinting at tactical changes in Lebanon, acknowledged the inherent dangers of protecting Beirut Airport. "Airports just happen to be flat," he said.

Mr Reagan's spokesman yesterday insisted that US policy towards Lebanon will not be changed, despite the Long commission's assertion that there was an urgent need for reassessment.

Police call Walesa for questioning

Warsaw (Reuter) – Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader and Nobel peace prize winner, was questioned by Gdansk police yesterday about a meeting he held with underground Solidarity representatives which resulted in a call for public protests against food price increases. Mr Walesa went to police headquarters after finishing work as an electrician at the Lenin Shipyard.

His secret meeting with the banned union's clandestine National Coordinating Commission took place in November, after the Communist authorities proposed increases averaging between 10 per cent and 15 per cent.

The rises, due to take effect next month, have not yet been finalized because of stiff opposition from Poland's new official unions.

Mr Walesa and the underground leaders signed a statement saying it was Solidarity's "obligation to organize struggle in defence of people's interests".

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said this month that Mr Walesa would be summoned by the internal security services to "discuss the meeting, which needs some clarification".

Mr Walesa was called in for questioning in May, when he last disclosed that he had met the underground commission. No action was taken against Mr Walesa, who described the new summons as routine harassment.

Both Mr Walesa and the coordinating commission have attacked the food price proposals, and the rising level of criticism from official sources in Poland has raised doubts about how quickly the prices will be implemented.

Sniping at West brings backlash

Why America quit Unesco

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will have far-reaching implications both for Unesco itself and American relations with the whole United Nations system.

The decision to quit marks the culmination of a year-long study by the State Department of American participation in 96 international organizations.

Although the US has informed Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, that it is not considering leaving the world body, its decision to withdraw from Unesco at the end of next year is intended as a clear signal that the US intends to be more assertive in defence of its interests in UN organizations in the future.

For Unesco, the American decision will have the dramatic effect of depriving it of one-quarter of its annual budget from 1985.

The US has traditionally been the single largest contributor to Unesco. US officials believe it will be hard, if not impossible, for the organization to make up this shortfall, despite assertions earlier this year by Mr Amadou Mahtar Mbow, Unesco's director-general, that he would seek an international loan if the US pulled out.

The Reagan Administration decided to single out Unesco for punitive action because its activities were considered the most contentious among UN agencies and the most inimical to American interests.

The main complaints against Unesco were of undue politicization (with many of its decisions showing a pro-Soviet or anti-Western bias), budget mismanagement, and attempts to restrict the freedom of the press.

Two issues which particularly angered the US were the temporary barring of Israel from Unesco activities during the mid-1970s and current attempts to establish a "new world information and communications order".

The US and other Western nations regard the "new order" as a way for governments, particularly those in the Soviet block and the Third World, to control what is written about their countries, both inside and outside their borders.

Mr Mbow: Criticized by US as a big spender.

As the biggest contributor to Unesco's budget, the US has also been angered by what it regards as the appalling way the organization has been managed and administered.

Unlike other UN agencies, which have been held to zero growth, Mr Mbow has resisted efforts to curb spending. Earlier this year the US was the only country to vote against Unesco's 1984-85 budget of $374 (£250m), which was more than 6 per cent higher than the previous year.

According to Mr Owen Harries, until recently the Australian Ambassador to Unesco, writing in *The New York Times* last week: "Basic features of good management, such as effective evaluation of programmes, comprehensible information about the budget, the effective allocation of resources, and adherence to proper procedures at meetings, are conspicuous by their absence."

Mr Harries was a leading contributor to a highly critical study of Unesco which the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think-tank, issued last October and which is said to have influenced the thinking of the Administration.

In this study Mr Harries wrote that "Unesco's activities are pretty constantly inimical to American interests and values". The organization was characterized by a "consistent and malignant anti-western bias".

Among other outspoken critics of Unesco who advocated an American withdrawal were the top State Department specialist dealing with international organizations, the American delegate to Unesco, conservative columnists, and somewhat surprisingly, the liberal *New York Times* and *Washington Post* newspapers.

One of the strongest attacks on Unesco came in a leading article in *The New York Times*, a paper normally supportive of the ideals of the UN.

Unesco, the paper claimed, had become "a babel of words notable for their muddiness and dishonesty". It complained that communist delegates had overwhelmed the constructive purposes of Unesco's founders, so that every meeting had become an "anti-Western rally".

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Shamir rules out PLO deal

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government yesterday categorically ruled out the suggestion that last week's dramatic reconciliation between President Mubarak of Egypt and Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader might lead to a widening of the Middle East peace process to involve the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The outright rejection of Egyptian hints to this effect was made both by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr David Kimche, the influential Director-General of the Foreign Ministry. Significantly, it came during the first visit to Israel of a senior Egyptian delegation since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon 18 months ago.

According to one Israeli official, the Egyption delegation led by Mr Shafi Abdul-Hamid, and Assistant Secretary of State at the Foreign Ministry, put forward a possible "widening" of the peace process as its repeated explanation for last week's controversial meeting in Cairo.

"The point was made very strongly by Mr Shamir that there was no way that Mr Arafat or his organization could be part of the process," the official told reporters. "They are not and will not be our partners in the peace process, either directly or indirectly."

The main purpose of Israel's unbending stand appeared to be to tell Washington that there was no chance of bringing the PLO even at half remove to the negotiating table with Israel.

Mr Shamir reiterated Israel's determination to stick rigidly to the line agreed at Camp David, and called on Egypt to revive the long-stalled talks on autonomy for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel's "regret and astonishment" at last week's Cairo rapprochement with Mr Arafat restated forcefully during more than seven hours of talks held yesterday in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. According to one source, nearly the whole time was taken up by Israel listing point by point its bitter complaints about the poor state of Israeli-Egyptian relations.

Yesterday's talks, reported to have been prompted by the Americans, came at a time when ties between Israel and Egypt are at their lowest ebb since the signing of the peace treaty in March, 1979. There was no sign last night of any imminent improvement, although both sides emphasized that their dialogue would continue.

Members of the Israeli delegation said that after yesterday's talks no immediate solution appeared in sight for the problems caused by Cairo's failure to carry out normalization agreements originally signed under the prompting of former President Carter.

Israel's complaints included lack of trade between the two countries, absence of Egyptian tourists from Israel and repeated, biting attacks on Isreal in the semi-official Cairo press.

The Israeli diplomats an Mr Shamir also attempted to justify Israel's policy in Lebanon which has been the root cause of the rift with Cairo.

Later, despite the differences which characterized most of the deliberations, an Israeli official said the talks had been held in a "positive atmosphere".

Grenada reprieves hit squad

St George's, Grenada (Reuter) – Four men sentenced to hang for attempting to assassinate the former Grenada Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, in June, 1980, have been pardoned by Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General.

Mr Bishop was at a rally, just outside St George's, sponsored by his People's Revolutionary Government when a bomb placed under the speaker's platform went off. He was uninjured but three girls were killed.

Boy PoWs to learn again

Geneva – More than 400 Iranian boys, the majority between 13 and 16, who are being held as PoWs at the Ramadi Camp, north of Baghdad, are to be allowed to resume their educatin under the direction of teachers who are refugees in Western Europe (Alan McGregor writes).

Teachers, volunteering to spend at least six months at the camp, will be assisted by undergraduates from among the 7,500 Iranian PoWs in Iraq.

Nation mourns

Harare (AP) – Flags around Zimbabwe will fly at half-mast today and tomorrow, declared days of national mourning for the 37 victims of the country's worst rail disaster. At least 214 people were injured when the train plunged down an embankment on Christmas Eve.

Sex ruling

Chicago (NYT) – A federal judge has found Eastern Airlines guilty of sex discrimination and ordered it to reinstate a pilot who had a sex change. The airline claimed Mr Kenneth Ulane, now Karen Ulane, had been a safety hazard on the flight deck.

Lucky couple

Harare (AP) – Three months after Barbra Bulling won the top £30,000 prize in Zimbabwe's monthly state lottery, her husband, Steve, won the £60,000 prize in the state lottery's Christmas draw.

Beauty bungler

Peking (Reuter) – A Shanghai youth who posed as a plastic surgeon seriously disfigured several women in unofficial operations. *The Liberation Army* newspaper reported that Yuan Lushan was detained after botched attempts to give his "patients" Western-style eyes and noses.

Correction

The imbalance of trade between East and West Germany in 1983 will be about DM 500m in West Germany's favour, not DM 5,000m as stated yesterday.

Beach Boy drowns in marina dive

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles

Dennis Wilson, the drummer and founding member of one of America's most successful pop groups, the Beach Boys, drowned after diving off a quay at a marina near Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Wilson, aged 39, was one of three brothers who were the nucleus of the turbulent group that made "surf music" popular and gave southern California its own rock identity in the early 1960s.

A friend called the harbour patrol after Wilson failed to surface. A rescue diver found him lying face down in about 12ft of water.

Wilson had been diving into the murky water to retrieve "some old chairs and junk". Officials would not speculate on the cause of death, although one witness said Wilson may have surfaced under the quay and struck his head.

They changed their name to Beach Boys and rode the crest of the California surfing craze. Over the next two decades the group recorded 35 albums, 15 of them gold. They were best remembered for hits including "surfin' USA," "California Girls" and "Good Vibrations."

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Dennis Wilson: Drowned while "diving for junk".

Main Heineken kidnap suspect gives himself up

Amsterdam (Reuter). – A main suspect in the kidnapping of Mr Freddie Heineken, the brewery chairman, has surrendered.

A police reported yesterday. A police spokeman said Mr Frans Meijer, who is 30 and one of three leading suspects sought, went to police headquarters on Wednesday night and said he was sorry for his part in the kidnapping of Mr Heineken and his chauffeur outside the brewery offices on November 9. The two were rescued by police from an Amsterdam warehouse on November 30.

According to the police, Mr Meijer, who recently sent letters to an Amsterdam newspaper and the police saying he wanted to surrender

Two men, arrested after the brewery paid a ransom of just over £7m two days before the Heineken was found, are still in custody.

Anti-Israel strike halts Sidon

Sidon (Reuter) – The port of Sidon went on strike yesterday in protest at the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the detention of about 15 Lebanese civilians by the Israeli Army.

Almost all shops and offices observed the strike call, while religious and civic leaders staged a sit-in at a city mosque to hear Muslim clergy denounce the 18-month-old Israeli presence.

The immediate cause of the strike was the arrest this week of two Muslim prayer leaders and the killing of three people in a skirmish with Israeli forces.

Mr Nazih al-Bizri, a Sidon MP and former Minister of Health, described it as a day of mourning for the three martyrs and said the Israelis had insulted Lebanese religious traditions by burying them without funerals.

The three men, said to have been members of a fundamentalist organization called the Muslim Brotherhood, died in a shoot-out when Israeli troops came to arrest a lorry driver at his home at 2 am on Tuesday. The Israeli forces evicted the driver's wife and children from their house on Wednesday and sent a bulldozer to raze the building to the ground, local residents said.

● PARIS: President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt has called for urgent resumption of talks between Jordan and the Palestinians, based on President Reagan's 1982 proposals for a negotiated Middle East, settlement (AFP reports).

● SANAA: Mr Arafat will convene a meeting of the Central Committee of his Fatah guerrilla movement in Tunis in about 48 hours, his spokesman said (Reuter reports).

● PEKING: Security has been tightened up at the US, French, Italian and British embassies here after persistent rumours in recent days that an "Iranian commando group" was in China (AFP reports). Vehicles are no longer allowed to enter the embassy grounds

Ozal raises prices and boosts economy

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Mr Turgut Ozal, Turkey's conservative Prime Minister, yesterday unveiled his package of economic measures which includes a 50 per cent increase in the prices of spirits and cigarettes.

Turkey's lower-middle class, flatteringly dubbed the country's "central pillar" by the prime minister, had already been jolted out of its post-election euphoria by an earlier round of price rises. But, the business community had reason to rejoice over the contents of Mr Ozal's package, restrictive regulations governing foreign currency transactions were eased and commercial banks were granted more freedom for foreign exchange deals.

The possession of foreign currencies ceases to be a punishable offence for ordinary Turks, who may now hold them in their bank accounts.

Mr Ozal also lifted restriction on imports, although a surtax is to be levied on the imports of luxury items. The proceeds are to be paid into the Social Housing Fund to help finance construction work seen as a way of reducing unemployment.

The package also includes measures designed to boost exports and to establish more realistic parities between the Turkish lira and foreign currencies, seen as a first step towards the realization of Mr Ozal's dream of a "convertible lira".

The Prime Minister described his economic package as "a bold step which nobody had dared take in the past 50 years". He said it was essential to cut the rate of inflation and revitalize the economy.

Mr Ekrem Pakdemirlı, the Under-Secretary for Treasury and Foreign Trade and one of the closest Ozal aides said he believed the package was "an important step for the Westerization of the direction of Turkey's economy".

Argentina digs up its past

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Argentine courts are literally digging up their country's bloody past as judicially-ordered exhumations of mass graves in several cemeteries have in the past week yielded the bodies of more than 30 presumed victims of security forces.

The exhumations are part of a wave of court investigations into the fate of more than 6,000 Argentines who vanished during the past seven years of recently-concluded military rule.

Acting with vigour after the inauguration of President Raul Alfonsín's civilian administration on December 10, the courts have had graves dug up in the Buenos Aires suburbs of Almirante Brown, Olivos and in the city of La Plata near by.

Judging by the immediate results of the investigations and growing calls for inquiries at other graveyards, it would seem the courts have only begun to scratch the surface on burials during the "dirty war" against terrorists.

The Mayor of Almirante Brown revealed on Tuesday that 14 of the 15 bodies exhumed in his city were without hands, evidently, cut off he said, to prevent identification.

He said three of the skulls exhumed had gunshot holes in them, while many skulls showed signs of having received severe beatings. He estimated that the cemetery would yield between 60 and 70 similarly-buried bodies.

The newly-elected mayor of the northern Buenos Aires suburb of San Isidro said on Wednesday that 41 more unidentified bodies of Argentines "killed in confrontations with security forces" were concealed in mass graves in a local cemetery.

Television, which was heavily censored under military rule, has been replete with graphic reporting of the exhumations. News reports this week included footage of graveyard workers packing large plastic bags with bones and taking them for identification.

Most bodies found so far in these and earlier exhumations have been discovered in groups of about a half dozen in paupers' graves or beneath legal graves.

The exhumations are not the only sign of a new willingness to strip away the secrecy surrounding the "dirty war".

Jackson ignores Reagan and goes to Syria

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington

The Rev Jesse Jackson, one of eight Democratic presidential candidates, left New York for Damascus yesterday to seek the release of a captured American airman despite misgivings expressed by President Reagan.

He claimed to have been assured that he would meet President Hariz al-Assad of Syria.

Navy Lieutenant Robert Goodman, has been held captive since his A6E Intruder was shot down over Lebanon on December 4.

Rev Jackson said his repeated attmpts to reach President Reagan, who had given a warning that the trip might be counter-productive, were fruitless both yesterday and on Wednesday.

Police inefficiency means Thornhill saboteurs may never be identified

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

The last three Zimbabwe Air Force officers involved in the Thornhill sabotage case are due to arrive in Britain this morning. The release of all the airmen implicated by Mr Robert Mugabe's Government is the closest thing to an admission that they were innocent of complicity – scapegoats in an investigation which went disastrously wrong.

The indentity of whoever was responsible for placing explosives in a dozen fighter aircraft which blew up at Zimbabwe's main air force base on July 25, 1982, may never become public knowledge.

Speculation has turned on diverse theories – that the operation was carried out by embittered former Rhodesians, by South Africans, by members of the minority Zipra faction in the armed forces, even that it was executed by members of a radical black military group who saw an opportunity to destroy the last remaining section of the armed forces controlled by whites.

The evidence which might have proved the case one way or another has been lost, abandoned in an investigation by incompetent police officers who decided at an early stage, for reasons which remain unclear, that they had to prove a conspiracy by senior white officers and tortured convenient suspects until they made false confessions.

Evidence gathered by the Air Force board of inquiry, which was abandoned after the arrest of two of its members, could have proved crucial if followed up in the police investigation. It included threads of fabric found at a spot where a hole had been cut in the security fence around Thornhill which was ignored by forensic investigators. This and other aspects of the case, such as the behaviour of some ex-Zipra personnel at the base, remain unexplained.

The final phase of the 17-month saga started on the evening of August 31. The officers were back in their cells at Chikurubi prison, having experienced only brief elation at their acquittal that day by the High Court before being served with new detention orders.

The two most senior men, Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slatter and Air Commodore Philip Pile – both of whom had been projected as future commanders of the Air Force – were visited by intermediaries who offered them on behalf of the Government immediate freedom, provided they left Zimbabwe for Britain that night.

At first they refused, saying they would not go until their brother officers were released and the Government had guaranteed all pension payments owing to them. But after negotiations over the next week, involving government officials, diplomats of the British High Commission and lawyers, in which verbal assurances on both points were given, they flew out of Harare on September 9.

A few days later Wing Commander Peter Briscoe, the last of the "top three", was also London-bound. In November Air Lieutenant Nigel Lewis-Walker, who was never brought to trial, was also allowed to leave. Finally, last week Wing Commander John Cox, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir were freed and given a week to clear up their affairs before leaving.

The new arrivals will discover that not all has gone smoothly for their colleagues in Britain. Air Vice-Marshal Slatter, his wife and two children have been living with friends for more than three months, his only income being from social security payments. He still has not received any of the £180,000 he is owed in pension, but he has now been offered a job.

Air Commodore Pile is owed even more in pension and is still without a job. Wing Commander Briscoe left Britain for the United States last week, having failed to find work. Air Lieutenant Lewis-Walker is hoping to join the RAF but must wait a statutory period before he qualifies.

The officers have undergone personality changes as a result of their ordeal. During the months in detention, they and their families found strength through faith and came to feel strongly about other detainees, mainly blacks, whom they met in Chikurubi.

With the release of the last airmen, the affair can be expected to pass into history, which will please both the British and Zimbabwe Governments, which have been troubled by the strain it has imposed on their relations.

But the long-term effect has been on the Air Force itself, where the consequences have been little short of disastrous. The treatment of the officers has provoked a mass exodus of skilled administrative, flying and maintenance personnel, and senior officers are still resigning. The aircraft sabotaged at Thornhill will be replaced in the next eight months, but the Zimbabwe Air Force will never be the same.

Bonn faces 'hot spring' of discontent

German unions want hours cut

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

While thousands of British factories remained idle over the long Christmas close-down, West German industry has been working normally this week, with only one day off for Christmas.

But the question of how many hours a German worker should put in at his factory is fast becoming a vexed political issue. Both trade unions and employers are deeply divided over a proposal that has been widely touted as a remedy for West Germany's unusually high level of unemployment: a cut in the normal working week to 35 hours.

The Trade Union Federation sees this reduction from the 40-hour week as an immediate and effective step to create more jobs and bring down unemployment, which stands at more than two million.

Employers and the Government, however, say that such a change, without any corresponding loss of pay, would bankrupt many firms and is a recipe for yet more unemployment.

The 35-hour week is likely to be the main point of argument in the coming round of 1984 pay talks. Already both sides have dug in their heels.

Herr Ernst Breit, leader of the Trade Union Federation, has forecast a "hot spring" of protests if the Government does not respond to calls for a five-hour cut in the working week. He says workers have already paid in advance for this by a drop in real earnings of 3.5 per cent over the past three years.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl calls the proposal "absurd and stupid", and said just before Christmas that he would not be shaken by the threat of strikes. The German economy could not cope with a 35-hour week yet. Herr Alfred Dregger, the Christian Democratic floor leader, said the demand was "irresponsible". It amounted to adding six weeks to each worker's holiday.


Herr Dregger: It would be 'irresponsible'.


Herr Geissler: A return to the class struggle.

Employers say that German industry cannot afford to cut working time as this would push up costs and make German goods less competitive. Japan would immediately take advantage of the drop in the export market. The Government employment bureau has estimated that the change would amount to a wage increase of 12.6 per cent for each worker.

But the trade unions, increasingly concerned about redundancies, are insisting on the change, pointing out that the working week has remained at 40 hours since 1967. IG Metall, the country's largest union, which negotiates on behalf of 3,800,000 workers in the steel and engineering industry, is taking the lead, as usual, and has threatened strikes in the spring.

The stricken steel industry, struggling to keep alive, is holding out firmly against the demand. It says costs would rise by 18 per cent, and this could be afforded only if the union accepted no pay increase for the next seven years.

Experts are divided on how many new jobs the cuts would make. Estimates range from a mere 60,000 to around one million. The Trade Union Federation, even after allowing for higher productivity, puts the figure at around 1,400,000.

Politicians are particularly fearful lest the issue becomes too emotive and destroys the vaunted industrial harmony, the corner-stone on which West German prosperity has been built.

Herr Heiner Geissler, the Christian Democratic Party secretary, gave a warning recently of "them and us" thinking and a return to the class struggle. The trade unions themselves have welcomed suggestions that independent arbitrators look at the issue dispassionately.

The Government has responded to the proposal with the recently published offer of early retirement at 59. This, it believes, is more attractive to workers and economically sounder. It thinks that, in conjunction with more flexible working hours – which it also recommends – the offer will undermine support for the 35-hour week and so avert any unwelcome strikes.

Family favourites: Mrs Gandhi giving her son Rajiv a few political pointers at the Congress meeting in Calcutta

Rajiv Gandhi hammers the left

From Michael Hamlyn, Calcutta

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the son of the Indian Prime Minister, made his first important speech to a plenary session of the Indian Congress Party last night and revealed himself as a scourge of the left.

Although the Congress conference has been particularly gentle in its criticisms of the Communist-led Government of West Bengal, Mr Gandhi made no bones about directly accusing them of inefficiency and even peculation.

Mr Gandhi's speech was awaited eagerly by the conference delegates, who have been encouraged to think of him as tomorrow's star by a stunning publicity campaign round Calcutta, where the meeting is being held. They packed the indoor stadium to sit cross-legged on mattresses spread across the floor. Several thousand more filled the galleries.

His mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi, sat on a cushion on the rostrum, surrounded by cross-legged dignitaries of the party, and hardly looked at him while he spoke. At first she busied herself with papers on her desk, and after gazed at the audience thoughtfully.

Mr Gandhi, who is younger and better-looking than his photographs suggest, spoke gently and slowly in Hindi, with few gestures and a number of ironic lines that brought a laugh. He was cheered many times with cries of "Rajiv Gandhi Sindabad". As soon as he finished speaking, almost the entire hall emptied, leaving a vestigaial audience for the rest of the speakers in the debate.

Mr Gandhi has been having a few verbal brushes with the Communist Party (Marxist) Chief Minister of West Bengal – of which Calcutta is the capital – since he arrived in the city on Monday. When he visited a highly disorganized and overcrowded exhibition on Tuesday, he was heard to observe that West Bengal could use some discipline.

The word he used, *anushashan*, was held to be somewhat unfortunate, as Mrs Gandhi's emergency used to be described as the *anushashan purba*, the "discipline Stage" of India's development.

He brought a riposte from Mr Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister, who referred patronizingly to him as "still an apprentice". Yesterday Mr Gandhi had his revenge, directing the main thrust of his speech at Mr Basu's Government.

He said that Mr Basu complained that not enough money was granted to West Bengal and that not enough industry was sent there. Mr Gandhi declared that the money that the left-wing Government borrowed was not used, as in other states, to develop current projects but to fund previous borrowing. In any case the money was not spent on useful operations and was frittered away and even given to Communist officials.

Industrial licences had been granted to companies to come to West Bengal, Mr Gandhi added, but they would not come until labour relations and electricity supply could be sorted out. Of an installed capacity of 1840 megawatts, the state was able only to generate 750 megawatts. "We seem to have plenty of light in here," he observed, "but there are plenty of dark places outside."

Earlier in the day Mrs Gandhi had kept the packed stadium quiet while outlining her political philosophy in a long statement of introduction to the opening of the actual plenary session. All that had happened earlier this week had been preparation for these two days.

She departed from her prepared text on a number of occasions to emphasize her commitment to socialism and the left-leaning way of doing things. She particularly emphasized her actions in the past leading up to the nationalization of the banks, on which issue she first split Congress. She insisted nationalization must go further.

"We did not nationalize the banks because we wanted to win elections," she said. "We had been trying to make them serve the people for years and years. We don't want them to break any rules now, but if the rules are obstructing them, then we must change the rules."

Mrs Gandhi explained the lack of progress towards a socialist society by saying that the crisis of development was basically due to the forces of the status quo. She added: "Delegates will remeber those who wanted to take the country in a socialist direction were obstructed." She blamed the failure to overcome right-wing elements on the socialists who left Congress instead of staying in the party to help her fight.

China two years up on output targets

Peking (Reuter) – China has achieved its 1985 production targets two years early, Mr Song Ping, the chief state planning commissioner, reported yesterday.

Final results for this year in terms of gross value of agricultural and industrial production would show that China had already reached a target set for the end of the current five-year state plan (1981-85), Mr Song said.

Industrial growth was expected to accelerate to about 10 per cent this year from 7.7 per cent in 1982. Total retail sales would rise by 10 per cent.

Mr Song also raised China's estimated 1983 grain production to 20 million tonnes more than the 353.43 million produced in 1982.

The annual average growth rate in the first three years of the current five-year plan would be 7.2 per cent. This greatly exceeded the 4 per cent official target now viewed as too conservative and tipped to be raised for the next plan.

Mr Song added that China had reversed some of the previous worrying falls in state revenues and the 1983 budget would be basically balanced.

Both Western economists and official Chinese statements attribute China's economic success this year, following hard upon last year's record achievements, to a restructuring of the economy under the influence of Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's elder statesman. Both have also pointed out the shortcomings and problems inherent in that success.

An unquantifiable but large proportion of the growth of the past few years has been simply the result of an abused economy retoning its muscles on slack capacity.

An attempt to devolve more economic responsibility and introduce profit incentives in a system accustomed to rigid and stultifying central control has released internal economic imbalances which are as yet unresolved.

Mr Song's speech mentioned friction between demand for state funds for key development projects and an insatiable appetite of localities for money for building projects which increase the burden on China's limited infrastructure.

A problem not mentioned by him but of abiding concern to China's best economic brains, is the distorted price system.


Food fever: Bargain-hunters in central Tokyo jostling for the special delicacies needed to celebrate the Japanese New Year.

Basques in climate of violence before polls

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

The release in Madrid of two politicians accused of justifying terrorism, the shooting of an exiled Spanish Basque militant in France, and a handgrenade attack on a police outpost in Bilbao heightened pre-election turmoil in the Basque country yesterday.

Regional parliamentary elections are expected in the Basque country in February, and the police fear an escalation of violence as a prelude.

Señor Jon Idgoras and Señor Iñaki Ruiz de Pineda were arrested on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively after telling a Madrid press conference on Monday that attacks by the Basque separatist organization, ETA on policemen and soldiers could be considered as "legitimate".

On Wednesday night, a Madrid court set them free because of their immunity as members of the Basque Regional Parliament. Both are members of Herri Batasuna (People's Unity), a party generally considered as the legalized political front for ETA.

Also on Wednesday night, two men on a motor cycle fired several shots at the exiled ETA leader, Señor Mikel Goikoetxea Elorriaga, alias Txapela, as he got out of his car with his wife and two children in St-Jean-de-Luz in France.

Doctors later described his condition as "clinically dead". He was wanted in Spain in connexion with 23 ETA attacks including one that resulted in the death of a Spanish police woman.

An anonymous caller told a Bilbao newspaper a few hours after the shooting the the attack was carried out by the Antiterrorist Liberation Group (Gal).

While ETA sympathizers demonstrated against the Gal attack in St-Jean-de-Luz and in Renteria, near St Sebastian, a handgrenade was thrown at a guard post on a canal near Bilbao. It exploded far from the policemen on duty, causing no injuries.

Freed Unita hostages land in Johannesburg

Johannesburg (Reuter) – A total of 26 former hostages of the Angolan guerrilla movement, Unita, freed on Wednesday under a Christmas amnesty, flew yesterday to South Africa, a Red Cross spokesman said.

There were 21 Portuguese, two Spaniards, a Brazilian, a Uruguayan and a Cape Verdean. Six were missionaries

The spokesman said a number of prisoners of other nationalities, including Czechoslovaks, remained in Unita hands.

Unita, which is fighting the Marxist Government in Luanda, released the prisoners in what it described as a goodwill gesture for Christmas.

It said last weekend it was freeing all foreign captives except the Czechoslovaks

China jails two prelates for ordaining priests

The Chinese authorities have jailed two prelates in charge of the Paoting diocese, according to Vatican Radio.

Mgr Joseph Fan Xueyan, the Bishop of Paoting, aged 76, was accused of having secretly ordained priests and bishops. He was sentenced to 10 years'

A similar sentence was passed on Mgr Huo Pin Chang, his Vicar-General.

Football fan had grenade

Milan (AFP) – An Inter Milan football supporter, arrested for an attack on a rival Austrian fan after a UEFA Cup clash here this month, was given a 19-month prison sentence yesterday and fined about £660 for posessing weapons, including an anti-tank grenade.

Franco Caravita was released on bail but will have to report to police headquarters three times a week. He may also face an attempted murder charge.

The weapons, found in Caravita's flat and car, included a .38 pistol, ammunition and a knife.

Zia's wife says no to husband's legal reforms

Islamabad, (AFP) - The wife of General Mohamed Zia ul-Haq the Pakistan leader says she is against the legal reforms proposed by her husband which would enforce Islamic rules on court evidence offered by women.

In an interview published in a Karachi newspaper on Wednesday, Mrs Zia said a court should consider a woman's testimony as equal to that of a man.

Under changes proposed by General Zia, two women would have to testify in order to counter-balance one male witness. Mrs Zia said, she would try to convince her husband of her argument.

Muslim committees have been preparing the law of evidence – a cornerstone of General Zia's plans for legal reforms – for the past two years, but its enactment was postponed several times this year on a number of grounds. Widespread opposition by educated women could force the military government to drop the proposal, observers thought.

Miró buried in Catalan birthplace

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Joan Miró, the Catalan abstract painter, who died on Christmas Day, was buried yesterday in Barcelona's Montjuic cemetery in what was almost a state funeral.

The last rites were as the painter had instructed, celebrated "by intelligent priests in the Catalan language".

Four members of the Cabinet, headed by Señor Alfonso Guerra, the Deputy Prime Minister, were among those who filled the Our Lady of the sea Gothic church for the funeral service. The city where Miró was born had declared three days of mourning.

The crowds were not only paying their respects to a great painter, but also honouring a Catalan remembered for never collaborating with the Franco regime. Instead, he lived quietly for many years in Majorca.

Miró's relatives agreed not to respect his wish for a private funeral, expressed 13 years before when the dictator was still alive.

Señor Jordi Pujol, the Catalan Chief Minister, convinced them that Miró, who like Picasso, sympathized with the Republican side during the Civil War, had, since 1975, identified himself with Catalonia, which had recovered democracy and self-rule.

Troops in Afghanistan 'on drugs'

Vienna (AP) – A Soviet soldier who deserted to join insurgents in Afghanistan alleged in an interview published yesterday that drug use was common and morale low among his former comrades.

The soldier, indentified as Vladislav Naumov by the Austrian *Kurier* newspaper, also reportedly spoke of widespread anti-Soviet sentiment and was quoted as saying the true extent of Soviet casualties was being kept secret.

The interview was given recently, the newspaper said, without saying where Naumov was or providing other details.

"Many soldiers take hash," he said, commenting on reports of widespread use of hashish and other drugs among Soviet troops. "The officers themselves offer the soldiers a shot or a sniff before the shooting betins...

"The hospitals are filled to overflowing, not only here in Afghanistan but also in Soviet Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan and other provinces. All of this is not well known. The army leadership keeps it secret."

● **Albanian onslaught:** Commenting on the fourth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Albania accused its erstwhile ally of "fascist aggression... perfidy and treachery", in a dispatch by the state-run ATA news agency (AP reports).

How Castro has created a welfare state to be envied

Havana (Reuter) – Even Fidel Castro's harshest critics would have difficulty in belittling the progress made by Cuba's revolution, 25 years old on January 1, in creating a welfare state worthy of a much richer country.

A guarantee to free education and public health services has been one of the main goals of Cuba's Communist Government which inherited a far different society when Dr Castro's guerrilla army took power in 1959.

Official statistics, backed by United Nations specialists working here, illustrate the transformation that has taken place in this tropical, largely agricultural island.

The average life expectancy of a Cuban born in the 1950s was around 50 compared with 73 today, while infant mortality has been slashed from about 60 per 1,000 live births to 16. Inoculation campaigns and improved diet, sanitation and living conditions have all but eliminated diseases which still wreak havoc in most Third World countries. No cases of polio, malaria, diphtheria or infantile tetanus, ailments which once killed thousands of Cuban youngsters, have been registered in the past decade.

Cradle-to-grave social benefits ensure that even the poorest families do not go hungry and have equal access to medical treatment and schooling. Government spending on education and health takes up more than 20 per cent of the national budget. The number of hospitals and doctors has tripled and the new Hermanos Ameijeiras hospital in central Havana is symbolic of the authorities' near obsession with providing the best in medical treatment.

It stands 24 storeys high and would look more at home in a wealthy district of New York or Los Angeles than in the decaying part of the capital it overshadows. The first patients, including the wounded from the recent US-led invasion of Grenada, began to move in this year.

The 1,000-bed hospital's equipment includes a million-dollar body scan and a computerized administrative and records service. "The facilities and attention here could hardly be bettered anywhere," according to Mr Adres Pasquier, the visiting International Red Cross delegate-general.

The Salvador Allende primary school in Alamar, east of here, is used as a showpiece for foreigners to tour but is not untypical of schools that have sprouted up in the past 25 years. More than 1,000 children, all in neat maroon uniforms, attend the school named after Chile's late Marxist President. Patriotic and Communist teaching play a large part in the daily routine beneath revolutionary slogans and pictures of such "martyrs" as Ernesto "Ché" Guevara, the dead guerrilla leader.

The sports facilities are modern but much of the teaching would appear old-fashioned to visitors. They are often struck by the parrot-like responses of the children instilled with the notion of collective, rather than individual, mentality.

The emphasis on manual labour is another striking aspect of education. Part of the Allende school acts as a medicine-packing plant where the children work a few hours a day.

"The old idea that the pursuit of academic excellence releases you from your obligations to help the economy... has to be forgotten," an Education Ministry official said. The concept of patriotic duty is fundamental to schooling and the 200,000 students in higher education are obliged to "repay" the state through work in isolated regions or abroad.

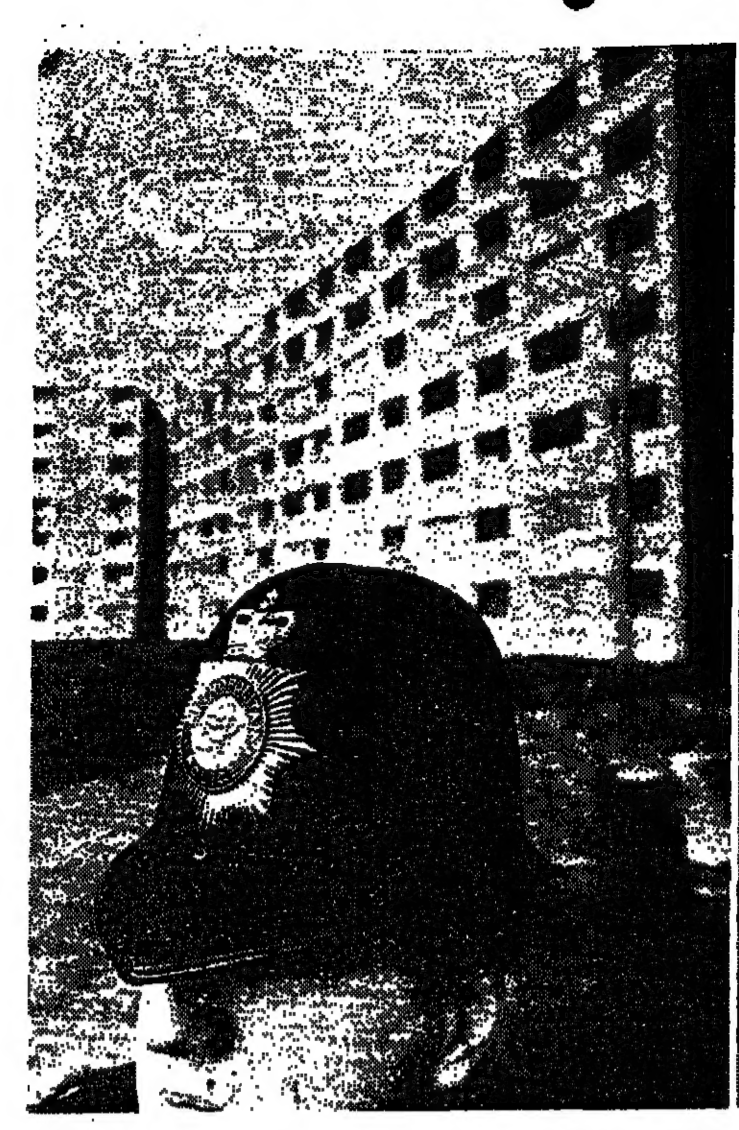
About 14,000 foreign students are in Cuba on free courses which, the Government emphasizes, are to train them in technical skills useful to their own countries and not guerrilla subversion, as is alleged by many Western governments.

SPECTRUM

The Chalkhill council estate in Brent, once a model of good housing, is now a violent, rubbish-strewn hell.
John Witherow and Brian Harris spent 24 hours there.

A day in the life of Chalkhill

Brian Harris





Dawn. The estate is deserted except for a few figures who walk down paths hunched against the cold. An old man comes up and offers directions. "This is a terrible place", he confides. "My wife and I want to move to Hemel Hempstead." It is a common yearning on Chalkhill.

We try the walkways. There are more than three miles of them, linking the buildings on three levels. The architects thought of them as pathways in the sky, but to residents they are narrow and murky, hiding places for the junkies, muggers or pranksters. Walls are sprayed with graffiti.

From the fourth floor we can see Wembley stadium, and in the distance the Post Office tower. Below us litter swirls in eddies between the building. Despite its reputation Chalkhill seems curiously sedate. The grass is neatly cut, the outside of the buildings clean, and the signs of vandalism not obvious.

We walk round a corner and find a door smashed. Next door someone has hung a sign: "Smile, God loves you".

8.30am. Our first mugging. We are looking at a Rastafarian mural of the Lion of Judah when there are shouts and the sound of breaking glass. By the time we arrive we find a man slumped against a wall and a tall figure disappearing into the gloom.

Hasmukh is shaking, holding a broken bottle in his hand. One or two heads pop out of doorways but they soon disappear. Hasmukh points at a plastic bottle of orange squash on a trolley from which he has been delivering milk, sliced bread and cool drinks. "He tried to take this but I wouldn't let him. He hit me so I smashed the bottle against the wall. I know him. He tried to rob me three days ago. No, I don't tell police because he will come back and hit me again." Most crimes go unreported for fear of retribution.

Some people decline to give their second names and talk darkly of becoming "marked" if they complain of vandalism or intimidation.

9.15am. We meet Gwendoline waiting for one of the few lifts that work. She has lived there for 14 years and seen Chalkhill transformed from the feather in the council's cap to a stone in its boot. Gwendoline has plenty of horror stories of estate life. "I've had all sorts of things thrown at me. One bit of wood missed me by inches. I've had stones fired at me from catapults. Some time ago I came across a young man weeing against a wall. I said, 'What are you doing?'. And do you know, dear, he just turned around and sprayed all over me.

"You get gangs of 30 or 40 rushing up and down the walkways. Two thirds of the people here are decent and courteous, whatever their colour or creed. But the rest . . . oh dear. They just don't care. We don't go out any more at night, dear. Just two doors from us an Asian man was attacked and there was a man knifed in the lift."

10.00am. We wander into one of half-a-dozen shops on the estate to buy some apples. Posters for latest films including *Angel Warriors* (It was her blood. . .now it's his war) and *Bronx Warriors 2* (they're back and out for blood) block the view of yams, sweet potatoes and sorrel. Jim, the owner, moved into videos to supplement meagre takings from vegetables. He says his most popular films are *Demented* and *First Blood*.

"Most of the people around here like violence - violence and horror", he says with a curious laugh. "But my videos aren't enough for them. They want films where they can see the axe going into the head in slow motion, huh,huh,huh". To deter burglars Jim sleeps in the back of his shop and boards up the windows at night. "This estate has become a drinkers' and junkies' paradise", he says, with a curious mixture of despair and pride that he should be living in such a hell-hole. "You've got some real Cadburys here, huh,huh,huh". As if on cue a youth with strange spiky hair lurches past the window muttering to himself.

Jim is keen to paint a gloomy picture of life on the estate. "You should call this the concrete jungle, because that's what it is. This place is a dump. The council slung in all the problem families, making one big problem. You never get the TV licence people coming. They came four years ago and they ain't been back. The kids gave them hell – threw bottles at them and that sort of thing.

"It's quiet now because no-one moves before midday. If it's raining they wait until one o'clock. After that anything can happen." We tell Jim of the attempted mugging. He nods knowingly and says: "That's nothing. You wait until tonight". We shift uneasily.

> I know him. I don't tell police because he will come back and hit me again

11.30am. After breakfast at a Wimpy's we meet our first policeman. Acting Chief Superintendent Alan Standsby, the man responsible for policing Chalkhill, is large and thoughtful and endlessly energetic. While residents are eager to portray the dark side of the estate, he is an optimist.

The situation, he says, has got better since the murder, that of Seema Devani, last year. The police raided several homes and found the proceeds of five robberies and 20 weapons, mostly knives. He produces a chart to show that while burglary is about average for Brent, the number of muggings are four or five times higher than for the rest of the borough. Last November he put in 40 undercover policemen to watch the estate covertly for two weekends. So good is the antennae for police on Chalkhill, however, that some of the policemen were quickly "rumbled".

They made 11 arrests, and also saw incidents that were never reported, such as the elderly Asian man being followed by about 15 youths who pushed and spat on him. Supt Standsby has increased policing of the estate but he still gets complaints from both sides. "I went to a meeting where one man got up and demanded more policemen", he says. "No sooner had he sat down than another man got up and said he didn't want his children contaminated by talking to policemen."

He believes the real troublemakers are a small group of between 20 and 30 youths out of the 6,000 to 7,000 people living on Chalkhill. We tell him we are spending the night on the estate and he advises us to park out car some distance away. "Nice for you to have something to return to", he says.

1.30pm. I try to make a telephone call in a call box that has had all its glass smashed and is propped up by scaffolding poles. As I leave 10p in the slot a small boy aged about eight runs up, grabs the coin and disappears. I reverse the charges.

2.00pm. A man in the estate's office says that mugging has increased in the past three years because of unemployment. The estate was designed to be one of the biggest and best in Europe. The original drawings even had pictures of helicopters ferrying residents from the roof. There are numerous notices in the office requesting exchanges. One asks for "a 2 or 3-bedroom flat anywhere in Brent except Chalkhill or Stonebridge". Stonebridge is a nearby estate acquiring a reputation as forbidding as Chalkhill's.

2.15pm. Daddy Malo bounds up. He is dressed in big tortoiseshell spectacles, a patterned pullover and neat jeans. "I'm a gangster. If you don't leave I'll cut yor head off. I'm real wicked. Unless you pay me you're in real trouble. You better get out of here." At first it's hard to tell if he's joking so we tell him we have no money. "Hey man, he's not joking. He means it", advises someone from a group watching Daddy Malo dance around us.

We try to change the subject. What is it like living on an estate known as a "muggers' paradise? "That's a load of bull ", snorts Daddy Malo. "It used to be a lot worse but it's cleared up now. They know who the daddies are around here." The group nods. "Tell him about that policeman", one says. "Yeah, there was this big problem with a racialist police officer called Ginger", continues Daddy Malo. "When he got hold of a nigger he kicked his head in and then used an iron bar. But he got jumped by about five black boys a long time ago and suffered a great deal of injury. He's not coming back."

With no hope of extracting money for what he says is a "sensational story", Daddy Malo gets bored. He declines to be photographed and lopes off down the corridor with his friends, casually hurling insults. We wonder if this is the first of the gangs we'll meet and if they'll be so friendly at midnight. We return to the car and remove all but a few pounds from our wallets and hide it in a sock under a seat.

> I love my flat. If only I could cut it out and put it somewhere else.

3.30pm. PC Dave Rundle and PC Gerald McNamara are patrolling Chalkhill until 10pm. PC Rundle, who is 21, looks completely unflappable and has been on the estate beat for five months. "We get a mixed reaction", he says. "Some of the young guys shout at us or spit. There are some nasty characters about but by the time they're 21 they either cool down or go on to bigger things." PC McNamara was in a panda car hit by a door thrown from above. After that we spend most of our time glancing up at the walkways.

4.00pm. Tea at Gwendoline's. The flat is comfortable with a view of Wembley stadium. "I love my flat", she says. "If only I could cut it out and put it somewhere else." Outside we continue our voyage of exploration. It's getting dark and the corridors are more menacing. There is no one around so we knock on some doors. A man opens his, stares at us open-mouthed, and them slams it.

An Irish mother of six is happy to chat. "There is nothing wrong living here" she says. Two men open another door. "This place is like the Dead Sea, man", one says. If he goes out to meet a girl he doesn't say he's from Chalkhill, because she may refuse to come back with him.

> There is a siren blast and they run off. We feel safer with the police gone

10.40pm. A police van pulls up and four men pile out. We follow two of them as they check out the walkways. Their arrival is heralded by high-pitched whistling from the estate gangs. A single woman walks past below. The policemen nudge one another and one says "Brave woman", largely, I suspect, for our benefit.

The two others join us and say they've "turfed out" about a dozen youths from a walkway where they were hanging around. "They'll be back when we've gone." The police seem to like the potential danger and are prone to dramatize. There is a sudden sharp blast on the van's siren and they run off. We feel safer with the police gone.

12.30am. The estate remains deserted. The only sound is some muffled rock music and caterwauling. One of the policemen had said a small girl had told them we were plainclothes police. Perhaps our presence is deterring crime. Or perhaps the cold and the rain is.

2.00am. No-one stirs, beyond two resentful cats being forcibly ejected.

2.45am. Another fruitless sortie. Not a sign of the wild parties and gangs of roaming muggers. Maybe they only come out on warm nights. Our sense of foreboding is beginning to evaporate and we get confident, wandering down corridors, careless whether our presence is known. The council is trying to prevent gangs running down walkways and is spending £1.5m on sealing each one off, so that a group of about 10 flats become self-contained in one corridor. The first ones quickly had the doors kicked down but the council is slowly winning.

4.30am. After a short sleep we again take to the walkways in the sky. Nothing. No sign of the police, gangs, lone muggers or granny victims. Just cats and rain. We walk fast to keep warm. Return to car.

6.30am. Chalkhill is stirring reluctantly. Figures walk steadfastly towards bus stops and the railway station. We meet Hasmukh on his milk round. He is much brighter this morning and introduces us to his friend, also called Hasmukh. They laugh about the previous day's incident. Hasmukh's wife stands in the doorway surrounded by dozens of packets of milk. Is Hasmukh worried that he will meet his attacker again? "No, no", he says quickly. 'This time I'm sure it will be all right."

moreover... Miles Kington

There is a picture hanging in the Photographers Gallery in Great Newport Street called "Christmas Dinner, South London. 1982". It shows a poor woman and two children eating nothing but sausage and beans, and when I saw it last week I felt as depressed and guilty as you do after reading the *Guardian*, which of course is exactly what I was intended to feel. It never occured to me at the time that less than a week later, at Christmas Day lunchtime, I would get much less to eat than that, and that nobody would feel sorry for me.

Things started pretty well. We had gone to stay with my brother in Devon – four of us, four of them, very domestic, no trouble with the washing up rota etc. He lives on top of Dartmoor. If any of my readers is reading this in the prison nearby and decides to escape later, he will see my brother's house near enough if he heads eastwards. Anyway, supper on the first evening was all local produce – oysters and mussels from the River Dart.

Have you ever opened oysters? I never had. What you do is insert a knife and twist it, and a little flake of shell comes off. Then you put the blade in somewhere else, twist it again, and another fragment of shell comes off. Then you stick the blade in deeper elsewhere, twist it more sharply and the blade comes off. Then, when you have run out of knives, you apply small hand grenades to one end of the oyster. This just about does the trick, and after about two hours you have a dish of open oysters and a wrecked kitchen. The oysters were delicious. There weren't a great many per person, but we still had Christmas lunch to look forward to.

The next day, Christmas Eve, we had wild duck for supper. Have you ever plucked a duck? I never had. What you do is sit with the duck on your lap and pull the feathers out until you are surrounded by a pile of down 2ft high. This means you have almost completed one wing.

It is astonishing, by the way, that ducks, who spend most of their lives flying around, do not build up mighty wing muscles in the way that ballet dancers have thighs like balloons or tennis players have one hand four sizes larger than the other. But I regret to report that under all those feathers a duck wing looks as puny as a garter with the elastic gone. Perhaps ducks fly with their stomach muscles. Perhaps they walk everywhere these days. You have time for thoughts like these when you are plucking ducks, which takes two hours the way I do it. The duck was delicious; there wasn't much meat but we still had Christmas lunch to look forward to.

With Christmas Day only hours away, my brother and I realized we hadn't seen much of our families yet. We'd been too busy breaking and entering the larder. And now we had to wrap our presents. Have you ever wrapped a present? I had, but you wouldn't think so to look at me. I do it with a roll of sticky tape in one hand and a roll of sticky tape in the other. And the technique I use reminds people of someone trying to get the feathers back on to a wild duck.

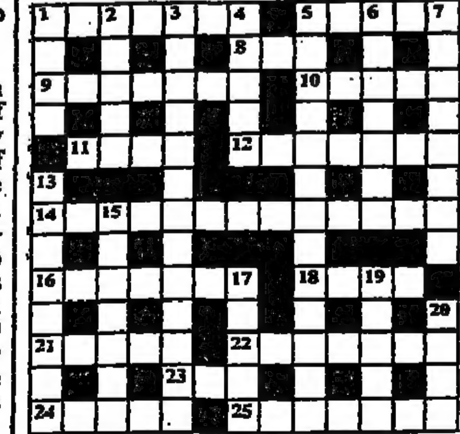
The only thing of note that happened before we finally got to bed was that my son was very ill. The only thing of note that happened during the night was that the two girls became very ill. The only interesting thing that happened on Christmas morning was that everyone else fell very ill, and by midday it was like being in the House of the Dying.

We did try to open our Christmas presents. Have you ever tried to open Christmas presents when your strength has sunk to below the strength of sticky tape? It's not easy, especially when you finally rip open the parcel and find that you've been given something edible.

Actually, it wasn't half a bad Christmas day at all; when the sick people are in a majority, it's the few healthy ones who feel the odd men out. We all crept around feeling sorry for ourselves and totally revelled in it. We speculated endlessly on whether it was the duck or mussels that caused the trouble. We switched off the Queen's broadcast after a couple of minutes because she looked so disgustingly well fed, unless of course it was the colour control.

In fact we felt incredibly virtuous when all eight of us got through the hours of Christmas daylight without touching a single solid. I think all I ever had for Christmas dinner, South Devon, 1983, was a cup of hot Bovril. My brother took a photograph of me doing it. We are sending it to the Photographers Gallery, Great Newport Street. You'll be able to see it there next year.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 235)



ACROSS
1 French resort area (7)
5 Flashlight (5)
8 In favour of (3)
9 Nightmarish demon (7)
10 Turns over (5)
11 Stainer (4)
12 Appetite (7)
14 Boston state (13)
16 Joins forces (7)
18 Straw beehive (4)
21 Furious (5)
22 Put to death (7)
23 Short nap (3)
24 Jumped (5)
25 Easily dissolved (7)

DOWN
1 Decayed building (4)
2 Petain's seat (5)
3 Discomfiture (13)
4 Eccentric orbit extremity (5)
5 Hawksbill turtle (13)
6 Dependant (7)
7 Secret (4,4)
13 Majestic (8)
15 Seedless raisin (7)
17 Casts off (5)
19 American suburb (5)
20 We are (4)

SOLUTION TO No 234
ACROSS: 1 Format 5 Attach 8 Rob 9 Sienna 10 Artful 11 Feel 12 Nihilist 14 Kangaroo court 17 Unbelief 19 Aura 21 Pseudo 23 Animus 24 Nun 25 Lycees 26 Diesel
DOWN: 2 Opine 3 Monologue 4 Trainer 5 Abash 6 TNT 7 Cruiser 13 Lookalike 15 Amnesty 16 Offhand 18 Irons 20 Rouge 22 Use

FRIDAY PAGE

COMMENT

The ABCs of exams

It is about time the debate about educational standards moved to more constructive ground. Of course, one of the main priorities of *education must be to improve* standards, but we need a proper definition of what that involves. If Britain is to prosper in the twenty-first century, our schools must develop the all-round talents, non-*academic as well as academic, of all* our children. Any adequate assessment of how we are doing will, therefore, require far more than a comparision of examination results.

Where do we stand today? In spite *of the prophets of doom, there is no* evidence of a decline in standards. On the contrary, after a decade in which most of our secondary schools went comprehensive, more children are passing exams than ever before.

Though results have obviously been influenced by the introduction of CSE exams and by the raising of the school-leaving age, the percentage of those leaving school without passing any exam has fallen dramatically. Equally impressively, the percentage of the relevant age group achieving between one and four O-levels and of the group achieving five O-levels has increased significantly, while the proportion passing A-levels has also improved, marginally. Even investigations into areas where there are difficulties (such as the Cockroft report into mathematics) confirm that there is no sign of falling standards.

It is, however, wrong to rely on exam results alone as a measure of educational performance. Exams like O and A-level are not necessarily an effective guide to intellectual achievement or potential. As the report of the House of Commons education select committee pointed out, such exams tend to put a premium on memory and exam technique rather than on the capacity to reason and argue.

The present exam system at 16-plus is designed to cater for some children only. It is true that, with the introduction of CSE, six out of seven pupils obtain an examination certificate in at least one subject by the time they leave school. But only 55 per cent achieve one O-level pass (O-Grade A to C or CSE Grade 1) and only just over 25 per cent of 17-year-olds achieve five O-level passes. No wonder that it has been called a "failure system".

So what should be done? There is no quick way to improve standards. The task is especially difficult at a time when schools are starved of resources, when the bleak prospects for school-leavers must make many pupils question the purpose and value of education.

There are, however, some initiatives that can be taken in the near future. We need an early decision from Sir Keith Joseph in favour of a common exam at 16-plus. Although the CSE exam can often provide a more appropriate test than O-level, it is undeniable that employers, pupils and even teachers have looked on it as inferior. What is now required, in the words of the education select committee, is a "*common system catering* for a very wide range of ability without pressing inappropriate criteria on any individual group".

There is also a strong case for developing a national system of profile reports for *school-leavers* which record all successes and achievements (whether academic or not) and throw light on such qualities as enthusiasm, persistence, willingness to accept responsibilities and the ability to participate constructively in group activity. Such a development could act as a counter to the idea that exams are the be-all and end-all of schooling.

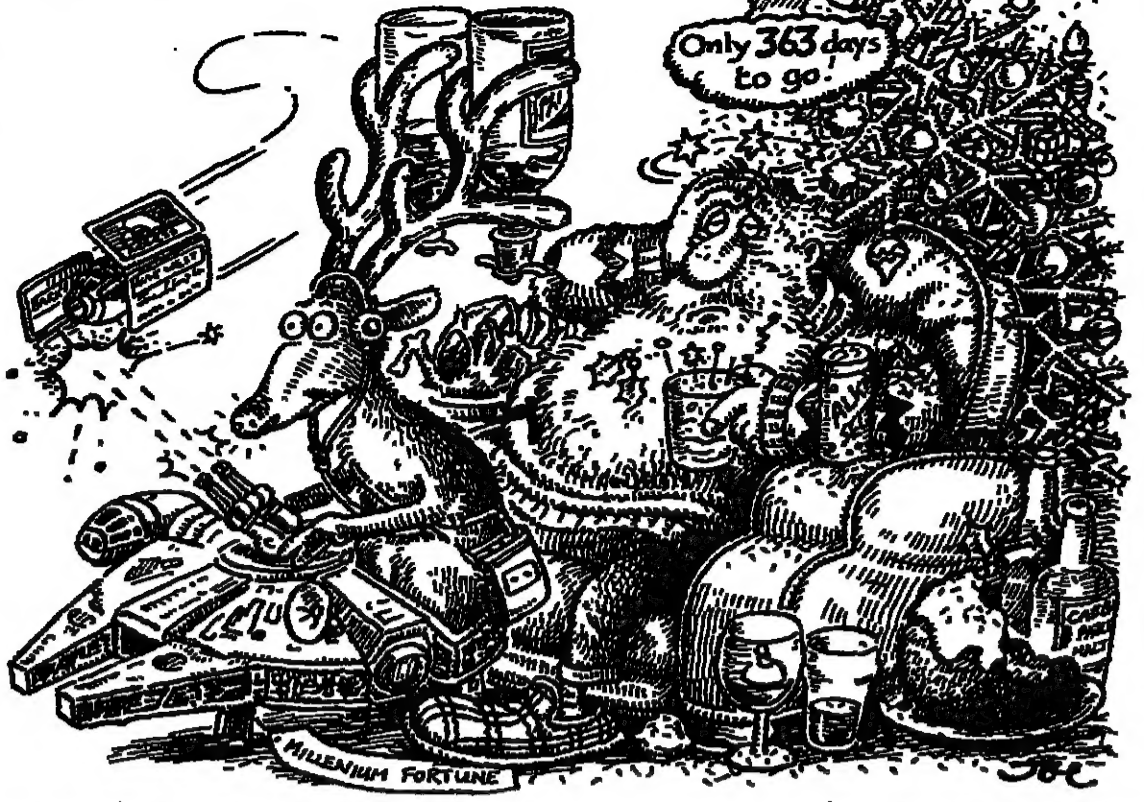
I remain an optimist about the education system. We *have* moved forward over the last decade and with intelligence, persistence and vision, we should make even greater advances over the next decade.

Giles Radice

The author, Labour MP for Durham East, is the Opposition education spokesman.

Trapped by the Yuletide

Alan Franks nurses a hangover and reflects that seasonal goodwill has been sorely tried



Some years ago a wag in the greetings industry came up with this desperate little stanza:

Christmas comes but once a year,
Bringing fog and fruitless cheer
You're sure to have a hectic time,
But Merry Christmas just the sime

I agree. Terrible. But the man deserves just a pinch of credit for attempting an Alternative Message and for getting in that word "hectic", somehow overlooked for two millenia by Yuletide lyricists. If only it rhymed properly with dyspeptic, we would have the basis for a really first class Christmas couplet.

Look around you; children in varying stages of that dreadful seasonal ailment, PHD (Post Hysteria Depression); yourself a victim of the adult counterpart, a hangover; cosmic weaponry all over the drawing room, with bleeps and flashes dreamed up in a spirit of punishment; and across the carpet a layer of Anti-Hoover Material, formerly known as Sitka spruce needles. They say that Christmas is for children; in my opinion, formed in this trough between the two great festive peaks, the only truth in such a statement is that Christmas is definitely *not* for adults.

Have you noticed, parent, how your offspring ripped and raped those envelopes which bore their name? How they discarded the card and foraged for the nub of the communication an autumnal dropping of green notes? How there was an obscene premium on the parity between the siblings' takings? You haven't? Then there is a terrible opacity in your vision, or else your children dissemble so well that they are a discredit to you.

I submit that when parents trot out this tired old disclaimer about Christmas being for the children, what they are really doing is expecting their young (whom they have after all created in their own image) to go through a similar piece of duplicity: outwardly treating the whole protracted affair as some celebration of divinity, and inwardly yearning for material gain.

The whole thing has an awesome momentum about it, recession or no. Hamleys of Regent Street sustained a tremendous growth in their toy sales this year, with *Star Wars* artefacts outstripping the rest of the field; these included the Millenium Falcon Vehicle at £22.99, the At-At Giant Imperial Mechanical Monster at £29.99, and the Snow Speeder at £12.99. It occurred to me that some of these prices would strain the resources of most families but I can only conclude that I am out of touch with the *realeconomik* of parental budgets at Christmas.

(Am I alone in laughing rather *sickly at the recurrent suffix of 99* pence on all the prices? Can the stores really believe that £29.99 looks any closer to £29 simply because the buyer stands to get some "change" from his three tenners? Who do they think they are fooling? They must believe that suckers are alive and well and living in debt, because the ploy has endured, to my knowledge, ever since Davy Crockett hats went for 6/11d).

Do you not also agree, parent, that if the nativity and its related produce were subjected to marketing techniques one fifth as sophisticated as those which sell toys, we should overnight become the most *religiously devout nation this side of* Islam?

I suppose the commercial prince this Christmas was either Roland Rat (Hamleys sold out of the creature), or the Cabbage Patch Doll, neither of which has even the most tangential connexion with Christmas. The first originated from a last cynical throw to boost a TV *company's breakfast ratings,* the second from a clever exploitation of the adoptive instincts which somehow survives in our children.

If these same children are today, five days after Christmas, tetchy, *feckless and liverish, they deserve* our tolerance, but because of our own condition they will probably get only our impatience. It is the age groups below six and over 13 which suffer the most. Members of the first may well not have had their credulity defiled, and could be termed the Santarites. Sensing the anticipation which by the end of last week had bloomed into hysteria, they came out in sympathy.

Somewhere beneath this behaviour there was no doubt the desire to please their parents, but after several days of sustained excitement they simply overheated and lost control. When adults are overtaken by a *similar surfeit, the symptoms are* somnolence, or boredom, or cramp of the smile, but children's reactive modes are less refined, and screaming is the common outlet.

As for the teenagers, they are in danger of falling into a Christmas limbo somewhere between childhood and adulthood. They are no longer in the frontline where gifts are concerned (at this age it may even be uncool to get too worked up about the festivities), but they could certainly use a good hefty present. If the week just ended is an index of a trend, then cash gifts are becoming more popular. Prosaic maybe, but infinitely convertible.

The other vital message, which a number of donors have just learnt the hard way, is this: if your child wants a Sony Walkman Two, don't get a Sony Walkman One. If he wants a Boy George album, don't settle for a Michael Jackson.

This year's prize error was by a north London parent who bought a Boots token for the eldest, although there is no Boots in the area. That is certainly not what Christmas is all about.

Christmas through the ages: what the children thought

John Manning



Kate Gillman, aged eight

Before:

"I would like a briefcase for school because my other bag is torn. I've been going on about it for nearly a year. I'm looking forward to going to church. I go regularly, but dad only comes with us at Christmas because he's not a Catholic. I don't like turkey, because it's just like chicken, so *we have a big chicken on Christmas Day, and* ham on Boxing Day."

After:

"I got the briefcase I wanted, and I also got a game of Monopoly from Father Christmas. I don't think it's an easy game because sometimes it's hard to keep what you've got, houses and things. Midnight Mass was quite nice because there were choirboys in the front row and girls in the organ loft . . ."



William McDowall, aged four

Before:

"I went to Appletown and saw a suit of armour, and it made me want it. Not a real one. It might be gone by now, because there is only one there. I'm not sure whether to put my stocking on the *wardrobe, or the bedpost,* or the doorknob. The wardrobe, I think, because it's the highest place and Father Christmas will see it. He will bring me an extra present because I've bumped my nose. I'm not sure what the extra present will be, but it could be the plastic fencing sword, which I also saw in Appletown."

After:

"My extra present was a Mister Happy hot water bottle for when I've got a cold. The shield is the wrong shape; it is a round one and it should have been a long one, like Mrs Palmer's. The helmet has knobs in it which hurt my brother's head. But my head is the right shape for a Roman helmet, so it doesn't hurt me. Father Christmas saw the stocking, so it was lucky I left it on the wardrobe – but he gave the plastic fencing sword to my brother."



William Palmer, aged 14

Before:

"I've got a vague idea what I'm getting. I think it's a record player, and I *know* I'm getting a pair of jeans. The record player won't be new; it'll be a mended one. I'm giving my brother Andrew a Clint Eastwood poster . . . I'm looking forward to the whole day, not just the presents, *but also the lunch and the other events.*"

After

"I got the record player, but I also got a pair of speakers, which I wasn't expecting. I know they were dad's old ones, because he's just bought a new pair, but that doesn't matter . . . The whole day definitely lived up to expectations; in fact, I would say it was better, partly because I had forgotten how nice the Christmas lunch is. Oh yes, and I gave mum a diary and dad a drill-bit".

Women in Hungary

Changing minds

In Budapest, a man steps off the train and turns to give his hands to his wife, who follows him down. The old-world courtesy of the gesture seems incongruous in a country where official policy goes further than anywhere in the West in institutionalizing equality of the sexes. But that brief pantomime may give a truer picture of the status of women in Hungarian society than any number of official statements.

The egalitarian measures implemented in Hungary after the Second World War were superimposed on a society organized on highly traditional lines. The new order meant that more and more women went



A traditional role for this peasant woman

out to work, until today nearly 90 per cent do so.

The state has done a great deal to ease the burden of working mothers. They have the right to five month's maternity leave on full pay, and then either parent can stay at home for up *to three years, drawing an allowance* from the state, and still return to the same job. State kindergartens care for 88 per cent of children from three to six years old.

Responsibility for the smooth running of the home, however, and the health and well-being of the family, still tends to fall on women rather than men.

All this means that the women are carrying a double burden, just as working mothers do in the West. At nine or ten divorces per thousand existing marriages per year, the rate of marital breakdown is acknowledged to be high.

Meanwhile, women are clearly at a disadvantage in the labour market. On average, women in socialist countries earn only 70 to 80 per cent of the income enjoyed by men. Even these are official figures; in Hungary, *almost everyone supplements* a modest wage by moonlighting, dealing in black-market goods or otherwise cheating the system. Women with responsibilities at home have less time for this sort of *activity. As in the West, all but the* most highly qualified women tend to be concentrated in sectors of the labour market that are low-paid.

Hungarian women who choose to pursue courses of higher education and training experience few obstacles compared with their western contemporaries, and are much better represented in "male" professions. But once they start work, their prospects for promotion become worse and worse as time passes.

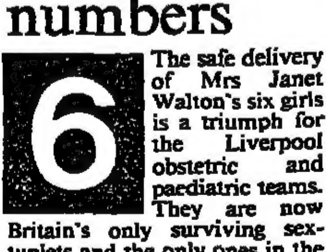
Katalin Koncz, senior lecturer at the Karl Marx University of Economics in Budapest, attributes most disadvantages to the state's failure, despite its efforts to create an environment in which women can work on an equal footing with men.

In Hungary there seems to be little more to be achieved through legislation. But a great deal can still be done through bringing up boys and girls to have the same aims and accept the same responsibilities. The experience is a reminder for western women, still struggling for many of the rights Hungarian women already *take for granted, that changes in* government policy do not automatically bring about change of attitudes.

Georgina Ferry

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Safety in numbers



The safe delivery of Mrs Janet Walton's six girls is a triumph for the Liverpool obstetric and paediatric teams. They are now Britain's only surviving sextuplets and the only ones in the world of the same sex. The Waltons' unalloyed delight at finding themselves parents of a well-stocked premature baby unit would not be echoed by all prospective parents. For this reason, and because of the high mortality rate for very small babies, every effort is made to reduce the chance of multiple pregnancies, so that the likelihood of this happening to a woman undergoing infertility treatment is small.

Before conception Mrs Walton was having treatment for failure to ovulate. In these cases two types of hormone are used. After the first, if there is evidence that a multiple pregnancy is likely, the second is omitted, and at the next attempt a smaller dose is substituted. Monitoring is achieved by measuring blood levels of oestrogen and the counting, with the aid of a scanner, of enlarged follicles on the ovary.

For unknown reasons Mrs Walton's oestrogen levels were well within normal limits, and did not rise to the levels expected in a multiple pregnancy. In retrospect it is considered that some bumps on her ovary noted at the time, thought of as being of no consequence, must have been ripening follicles.

In view of these apparently normal findings, Mrs Walton received the second hormone. As far as it is known none of the babies is identical, and fertilization and implantation of six embryos occurred.

At nine weeks Mr Usama Abdulla diagnosed at least five babies; the final count of six was only confirmed a week or two before delivery. The early diagnosis enabled Mrs Walton to be given appropriate antenatal care and for the paediatrician, Dr Richard Cooke, to train his team and prepare the necessary equipment.

Liver question

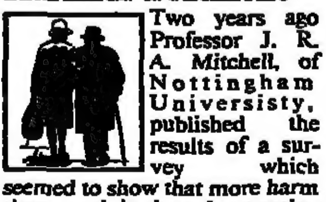


The many fans of Mr John le Mesurier, who died from a massive internal haemorrhage, will be pleased that the coroner stressed that although the actor was undeniably a convivial man who enjoyed a drink, it was impossible to be certain what had caused the trouble in this case.

Internal haemorrhage is often a terminal event in patients with cirrhosis of the liver. The hardening and shrinking in the liver which occurs in this disease impedes the free circulation of the blood around the liver. The back pressure from this obstruction causes varicose veins to form in the lower part of the oesophagus (gullet).

Recently improved techniques have been introduced to help surgeons in their attempt to staunch the flow of blood which follows the bursting of one of these veins, but all too often their efforts are in vain.

Harmful treatment

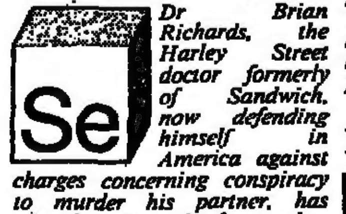


Two years ago Professor J. R. A. Mitchell, of Nottingham Universisty, published the results of a survey which seemed to show that more harm than good is done by treating high blood pressure in very old patients. He has renewed the controversy, by suggesting to the *Lancet* that doctors should change their set speech to the over-eighties, and now say "Your blood pressure isn't normal, but at your age that's good".

Professor Mitchell told *The Times* that it was not known at what age it ceased to be beneficial to treat hypertension, or indeed what was an acceptable blood pressure for old people. It was universally accepted that in patients up to 60 or 65, treatment could be life-preserving; but there was little research data on the effects of treatment on people between this age and the work he and his team had done with the over-eighties.

"The doctor lies who tells a 70-year-old man that he knows that his blood pressure needs treating, if he says the same thing to a 70-year-old woman he lies twice over, for the truth is that he can only speak from the most enormous ignorance, as the majority of research on which his advice is based has been done on men under 60."

Trace of life



Dr Brian Richards, the Harley Street doctor formerly of Sandwich, now defending himself in America against charges concerning conspiracy to murder his partner, has recently written the foreword to a book extoling the advantages of taking the trace element, selenium. Recent articles in both the BMJ and the Lancet would seem to support this.

The importance of trace elements to human health, long recognized in vetinary medicine, has only recently received publicity. Magnesium and selenium have both been the object of recent reports.

Selenium soil levels are low in Britain, except in a small area of North Norfolk where, whether as a result of this or by chance, there is a particularly good record for longevity. High selenium levels throughout the world seem to be associated with low levels of malignant disease.

A few years ago a scientist employed by one pharmaceutical firm was considered such a bore because of his preoccupation with the importance of magnesium that he was eventually dismissed. Unfortunately for him he was in advance of his time, for now the importance of this trace element is widely recognized. Low levels occur in some soft-water areas, and seem to be one of the factors contributing to an increased incidence of hypertension.

Low blood levels, which can result from excessive alcohol intake or some strong diuretic "water pills", increase the heart's irritability so that an abnormal rhythm, possibly fatal, may occur.

Hope for smokers

An experiment carried out in six group practices by the Addiction Research Unit of the Institute of Psychiatry, London, showed that when the offer of a prescription of nicotine gum was used to reinforce the doctors advice and an anti-smoking booklet the number of patients who were still not smoking after a year virtually doubled. A report in the *British Medical Journal* suggests that this research is of importance as it offers a simple method of overcoming one of the problems of treating smokers; the time involved in long counselling sessions.

Kindest cut?

Before the war, circumcision was the hallmark without which no middle-class delivery was complete, but since then in Britain, it has been condemned by paediatricians as a dangerous mutilation.

Venereologists have had doubts about this reasoning. Apart from the often quoted freedom the operation is said to ensure from cancer of the penis and a sometimes disfiguring skin disease, BXO, they have always had the impression that minor skin and other infections are seen less often in the circumcised.

In order to investigate the theory that the operation is mutilating, functionally a mistake and aesthetically undesirable a simple survey was carried out a few years ago among very promiscuous women patients attending a London clinic, the only people whose judgment was considered to be less affected by emotion. By an overwhelming majority they declared a preference for circumcised men.

To this anecdotal evidence is now added a report from Australia. A team from the University of Western Australia has found that herpes and gonorrhoea was twice as common in the uncircumcised; in thrush, and in the small number of cases of syphylis, five times as common. Unfortunately, these figures have not been corrected for a possible social-class bias.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE TIMES

Review of the year 1983

George Hill ponders Lebanon, Grenada, Parkinson's sin, seat belts, acid rain, Andropov's cold, and finally drifts off into the void . . .



Guichard/Sygma

Lebanon: still dodging round shattered blocks of reinforced concrete

So we fastened our seatbelts and gingerly steered off into the last lap of history before George Orwell's year of dust and ashes. Most of our lives have been spent under the approaching shadow that his prophecy cast with such precision across the calendar. On Sunday we shall wake up to find ourselves inside it, like victims of that science fiction storyline currently in vogue, who become incorporated in the landscape of a video game, forced to enact its imaginary conflicts in deadly earnest.

The initial view is less bleak than we had feared: we still have our freedoms (haven't we? No replacements issued if mislaid), and most of even our unemployed enjoy greater material wealth than average inhabitants of Orwell's fable, or his England. But our blustering and unreconciled world power-blocks sound more like his than they did a year ago and have infinitely greater destructive power at their disposal than he dreamt of. And there is no inkling in his dystopia of acid rain, half-price heroin, Dennis Nilsen, radioactive sandcastles, video nasties or the National Gallery Extension.

As for the rest of the world, there has never been a time when existence in Airstrip One would have seemed in many places other than enviably ample and unconstrained. Big Brother would appear an indulgent overseer to those under the eye of the Ayatollah. For many in Sri Lanka and Assam, it was enough to have survived the year alive. Its wars, from the Gulf to El Salvador, were all of the kind that seem indefinitely extensible: if the inhabitants of each battle zone are reduced eventually to two, it can be assumed that they will still be dodging round shattered blocks of reinforced concrete, lobbing grenades at each other.

British forces were involved in, or exposed to, the fighting in Lebanon, as part of an international force sent into the vacuum left by the Israelis. Its mission was to interpose itself between the combatants and draw the fire of each until such time as trust and harmony re-established themselves. The combatants accepted this diversionary invitation with gusto, and civilian carnage was successfully reduced, though at the cost of several hundred American and French lives.

But to return to the seatbelts. The inner irony of the political life is that in spite of all the noise and glamour of power, politicians can seldom say: "We caused that, and it was a good thing" – at least, not without secretly crossing their fingers. The economy may start looking up, after 42 successive months of rising unemployment, but is that because of one's policies, or in spite of them? Channel a little extra tax relief to the struggling mortgagee, and ungrateful tenants are sure to cry foul because their housing benefit has been cut. Secure a subsidy of millions from the tobacco industry for the unimpeachable cause of health research, and someone will grumble because the effects of smoking have been excluded from the project.

But last January's seat belt order came as near as political action can to unequivocal good. Some 300 people will be toasting in Orwell Year tonight who would otherwise be dead now, and several thousand more would be serious casualties. One of those who may owe their lives to a seatbelt was elected leader of the Opposition shortly afterwards. If the salvation of the Labour Party thus proves eventually to have been brought about by a Tory enactment, that will be just one more of the little ironies of politics.

However unrewarding the metier, there was no shortage of applicants to enter it this year. With three million unemployed, people will snatch at anything even half respectable. It was not a vintage election, being deficient both in suspense and in great choices. But there was something awe-inspiring about the spectacle of the Labour campaign falling apart like one of those monuments of the industrial past brought down with strategically-placed thimblefuls of explosive by Mr Fred Dibnah, hero of an addictive and symbolic television series. In Bermondsey the venerable fabric shook; in Liverpool it tottered, as the sacrificial Michael Foot gave his blessing to candidates on whom he had pronounced anathema. Then down it came, Mr Benn toppling one way deriding the brass-doorknocker vote, and Mr Healey the other, explaining how unilateralism and multilateralism went hand in hand.

On The Day After, picking over the rubble, we observed that the Tories had gained the most decisive majority in 30 years on a slightly reduced minority share of the vote; that Labour retained a third of the seats with 28 per cent of the vote, and that Alliance had secured 26 per cent of the vote and one twenty-eighth of the seats. So this was what was meant by letting the voice of the people be heard, the ghost of Orwell *whispered caustically*.

But the first prime minister this century to win a working majority twice running was on top of the world. Or so one might have expected. Yet instead, events bore out Wellington's maxim about a battle won being only the next worst thing to a battle lost.

In addition, Mrs Thatcher was forced to dispense with the handsomest man in her cabinet for indecisiveness in his private life, and for having aroused the spite of someone adept at manipulating the media.

In the last analysis unemployment was to blame, as for most other evils of the time. If it were not so notoriously difficult for an able and resourceful woman to get ahead in the Tory party, Miss Sara Keays would probably have found fulfilment nursing a safe seat instead of a baby, and have gone harmlessly to *the backbenches, never to be heard* of again.

Disarmers and deterers both found welcome reinforcement for their cases during the year in a study which indicated that even a desultory nuclear exchange would fill the stratosphere with enough dust to plunge the globe into an Arctic winter lasting for years. Just such a cataclysm is said to have ended the age of the dinosaurs, and numerous grinning dinosaur skulls turned up all over England south of Watford, as if to mock us for imagining that we could manage our affairs any better than they.

The lineal successor of Big Brother spent most of the year unseen and unheard, engaged in a secret contest with illness and the inertia of a political system programmed to hold only one course. Sapped of the astringent energy he showed a year ago, Mr Andropov appeared as helpless as the captain of some immense airliner with hundreds of souls on board, locked on automatic pilot and cruising inexorably into dangerous airspace.

Winter this year was once again of the kind implying that spring cannot be far behind. Further behind than usual, however. As far south as Kent England experienced a freakish and exquisite White Easter. The weather continued overcast until July 2, when the sun came out all over Europe, and stayed out for the rest of a sweltering summer and resplendent autumn.

Britain was so debilitated by the heat that few sporting exploits of significance occurred here, except in the line of anomalies. Surrey were skittled out by Essex for 14 runs, and the unseeded Chris Lewis found himself overparted in the final of a Wimbledon of fallible seeds. But India triumphantly beat the West Indies in the cricket world cup, to the astonishment even of themselves. In more temperate climes Australia accomplished great things, taking both the Ashes and the America's Cup.

The political affairs of the year were relatively straightforward, unrancorous, concerned with the disposition of inconsiderable financial resources, and unimportant. But from time to time we felt the need (especially when the NGA had sealed the lips of Fleet Street because of a faraway freesheet of which we knew little) of someone who could make all clear and dispel all confusions – someone with a mission to explain. We were fortunate that the advent of TV-AM brought us just such a mentor: Roland Rat.

In the film world, *Gandhi*, with its eight Oscars was only the most bemedalled of a number of outstanding British films.

Indeed, it was not a bad year for the arts generally, proving once again that there is nothing like a funding crisis to concetrate minds. At the end of the year, almost for the first time in memory, not one West End theatre was dark. Eduardo Paolozzi completed his merry mosaic on the London Underground, reputedly the largest work of art publicly commissioned in Britain this century.

It was the year when a brazen travesty of the sovereign became legal tender, when the Irish police bolted the stable door after the horse had been kidnapped, when it was not always advisable to drive a yellow Mini in Central London, when the IRA came to Harrods, and when Sir Oswald Mosley spoke from beyond the grave, and Hitler did not.

At about the time the Korean airliner was cruising into Soviet airspace, the spacecraft Pioneer 10, launched in 1972, became the first human artefact to escape the solar system altogether. Sent off from our flimsy planet like one of Noah's birds from the storm-tossed Ark, it left behind all terrestrial dangers from MiGs, Big Brothers, ayatollahs, Pershings, Tridents and politicians, and cruised away into the void, still twittering. It will probably outlast everything else that we have done.

Diary

Compiled by Jack Lonsdale

JANUARY

3 *The Times* resumed publication following the loss of eight issues because of an industrial dispute.
5 A dog falling into the sea at Blackpool caused the death of its owner and three police officers.
The Pope named 18 new cardinals including one from Russia.
6 Government reshuffle: Mr Michael Heseltine replaced Mr Nott (resigned) at Defence and was succeeded at Environment by Mr Tom King.
Two RUC officers were shot dead at Rostrevor, Co Down.
Captain K. Kirk, a Danish fisherman, was fined £30,000 for fishing within the British 12-mile limit in the North Sea.
The Anglican Evangelical Assembly was inaugurated.
7 Australia regained the Ashes.
8 Mrs Thatcher visited the Falklands.
12 A Soviet official was expelled from London for espionage (*see also* Sept 29).
14 Mr Stephen Waldorf was shot by police in London in the belief that he was David Martin who had escaped from custody on Christmas Eve (*see also* 28 *and* Oct 19).
Two RAF officers were found guilty of accidentally shooting down a Jaguar aircraft on May 25, 1982.
16 The IRA murdered Judge William in Belfast.
Forty-seven people were killed when a Turkish Airlines Boeing 727 crashed at Ankara.
17 Nigeria expelled two million aliens; On the 31st Ghana opened its borders to its nationals.
The BBC's early-morning television began; independent TV-am began on Feb 7.
18 The Franks Committee on the invasion of the Falklands by Argentina reported: it could not have been foreseen; the machinery of government and British intelligence was open to criticism.
The Court of Appeal ruled that refusal to work overtime by a group of employees was "industrial action".
Denmark ended its dispute with the EEC on fishing.
Lance-Corporal Philip Leslie Aldridge was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for passing secret information to Russia.
19 Mr Michael Fagan, who broke into the Queen's bedroom on July 9 last year, was released from a Liverpool mental hospital.
After five years of semi-autonomous rule, Namibia came under direct rule by South Africa.
20 The Serpell report on British Rail suggested a smaller system and higher commuter fares.
Job losses announced: British Shipbuilders – 2,300; on the 21st, Lucas – 1,200.
The Irish Republic's Garda Commissioner and one of his deputies retired (Feb 1) following the telephone tapping of two journalists.
21 Inflation fell to 5.4 per cent – the lowest for 13 years.
Hever Castle, Kent, was sold for about £9m to Broadland Properties.
23 The Soviet satellite Cosmos 1402 fell harmlessly into the Indian Ocean.
Bjorn Borg announced his retirement from world tennis.
In Rome, among the sentences on the Red Brigade terrorists were 32 for life for 17 murders including that of Aldo Moro.
25 Water and sewage workers began an official strike; it ended on Feb 24.
The pound fell to $1.5405, its lowest ever.
A common fisheries policy for the EEC was initialled in Brussels.
China commuted the death sentence imposed in Jan 1981 on Mao Tse-Tung's widow, Jiang Qing.
The Court of Appeal dismissed two applications for judicial review of decisions of the Boundary Commission.
28 David Martin was recaptured in London; he was jailed for 25 years on Oct 11.
30 Druze militia began shelling Beirut.
31 Car seatbelt wearing became compulsory.
President Reagan offered to meet Mr Andropov for a missile pact; the offer was rejected.

FEBRUARY

1 A British Army unit arrived in Beirut.
Six people were killed in Britain during gales of over 100 mph.
2 The strategic arms reduction talks resumed in Geneva.
3 Unemployment rose to 3,224,715 – a record.
The Press Council criticized newspapers for their coverage of the Yorkshire Ripper case.
4 The Shops Bill (allowing Sunday trading) was defeated in the Commons.
5 Twenty-two people were killed when a bomb exploded outside the PLO offices in Beirut.
Barbie, alias Klaus Altman – the Butcher of Lyons – was imprisoned in Lyons following expulsion from Bolivia.
7 Iran launched a major offensive against Iraq.
8 In Israel, the Kahan report on the Beirut Chatila and Sabra massacres in Sept 1982 condemned the Government and Mr Sharon, the defence minister; on the 11th the Government accepted the report and Mr Sharon resigned.
The 1981 Derby winner Shergar was kidnapped from co Kildare.
10 The General Synod rejected *unilateral nuclear disarmament.*
Remains of three men were found in a drain in North London; on the 11th Dennis Andrew Nilsen was charged with murder; on Nov 4 he was found guilty on six counts of murder and two attempted; his sentence recommended at least 25 years in prison.
11 Inflation fell to 4.9 per cent.
The Sunday Times and *Daily Star* were found guilty of contempt of court in respect of reports about Mr Michael Fagan.
12 The Government stated it had rejected dual-key control for cruise missiles because of the £1,000m cost.
In Northern Italy 64 lives were lost in a Turin cinema fire and 10 in a cable-car accident near Ayas.
The Queen began a month-long tour of the West Indies, Mexico and the west coast of America.
16 Bush fires in southern Australia killed at least 69 people.
17 Mr. Anatoly Shcharansky ended his four-month hunger strike in the Soviet Union.

> "Bermondsey was a disaster, quite frankly."
> Moss Evans after Bermondsey by-election.
> *February 25*

21 *More than 800 lives were lost in riots in Assam.*
The South Atlantic Fund reached £14.6m.
Buckingham Palace applied for an injunction against *The Sun* to restrain it from publishing alleged details of the private life of the royal family; the action was dropped on March 2 with *The Sun* withdrawing further articles and paying £4,000 to a charity.
23 The Labour Party expelled five militants.
24 In the Bermondsey by-election, Liberal/SDP Alliance gained the seat from Labour.
25 The estimated death toll in the violence in Assam rose to 1,500; thousands fled over the frontier.
28 British Leyland received an extra £100m of public money.
Miners in Wales went on strike.

MARCH

2 A policeman was shot dead by the IRA in Belfast – the fifth violent death in 13 days.
The Pope began a tour of eight Central American states.
3 A British Medical Association report stated that nuclear survival plans would be a "myth".
5 In Australia the Labour Party, led by Mr Bob Hawke, decisively beat Mr Malcolm Fraser's coalition.
Three Arabs were sentenced for the attempted assassination of the Israeli Ambassador, Mr Argov, in June 1982 in London.
6 Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Christian Democrat party were returned to power in Germany
Following threats to kill him, Mr Joshua Nkomo fled from Harare; he arrived in London on the 13th; he left on Aug 15
7 The 100-nation non-aligned movement summit opened in Delhi.
Ninety-eight miners were killed in a pit explosion in Turkey.
8 A 1935 £1,000 bank note was *auctioned at Spink's for £6,800*
9 Miners voted against a strike on pit closures and on the 10th agreed to drop their year-old boycott of the NCB.

> "Don't go upstairs."
> Note pinned to door to warn maid when Arthur Koestler and his wife committed suicide.
> *March 3*

12 Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the world ice dance championship at Helsinki.
14 Opec cut the price of oil by 15 per cent.
15 Budget: increases in drink, petrol and tobacco duties.
Bank lending rate cut to 10.5 per cent.
A letter bomb addressed to the Prime Minister was defused and a second one on the 16th.
16 The multinational force in Beirut was attacked.
17 Mrs Francis Griffiths, photographer of Cottingley Dell fairies in 1917, confessed that the photograph was a fake.
18 The Prince and Princess of Wales left on a tour of Australasia, arriving back on May 11.
Mr Peter Jay resigned as chairman of TV-am; on April 19 Miss Anna Ford and Miss Angela Rippon were dismissed.
The Government agreed to the development of a coal pit in the Vale of Belvoir.
22 Drought in Ethiopa was bringing famine to more than a million people.
Mr Chaim Herzog was elected president of Israel.
President Kaunda of Zambia arrived on a state visit.
23 The Keith Report recommended tougher measures against tax evaders.
24 The death roll in the violence in Assam was estimated to be at least 5,000.
25 The Pope inaugurated Holy year.
The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Britain had violated prisoners' rights in censoring mail.
28 British Leyland workers at Cowley went on strike over "washing-up time"; they returned on April 27.
The Chester Report on the Football League proposed a reduction in the first division.
29 Thirty-one Poles who jumped ship at Tilbury were allowed to remain in Britain for a year.
31 At Wallsend, naval seamen dressed as civilians took over a Falkland troopship; it was handed back to union labour on April 6.

APRIL

1 CND supporters linked hands to form a chain between Burghfield and Greenham Common.
3 The IRA murdered a man at Bangor and admitted the next day it was a mistake.
Guerrillas in Matabeleland murdered three white people.
4 Vietnam mounted a major attack on Cambodian forces on the Thai frontier.
America's space shuttle Challenger was launched; its communications satellite became out of control after launching.
5 France expelled 47 Russian diplomats for alleged spying.
An armed gang escaped with £7m from Security Express HQ.
Thailand dropped napalm bombs on Vietnamese soldiers on the Cambodian border.
8 Russia expelled a British journalist and the *Financial Times* correspondent.
10 King Hussein of Jordan failed to reach agreement with the PLO on a Middle East plan.
Relatives of those who had died in the Falklands arrived there on a 12-day visit.
11 In Belfast 14 "loyalists" were sentenced on the evidence of a supergrass.
General Galtieri, former Argentine president, was sentenced to 60 days detention for indiscipline; details of a court martial were reported on Nov 24.
12 *Gandhi* won eight Oscars.
14 Unemployed school-leavers were offered a year's training in the Forces.
Eleven people were murdered in Mafia violence in Sicily.
Interest rates were cut to 10 per cent.
17 The London Marathon.
18 Thirty-nine people were killed when a bomb blasted the US embassy in Beirut.
The Government committed itself to lead-free petrol by 1990.
21 The £1 coin came into usage.
22 Australia expelled a Soviet diplomat – an alleged KGB man.
27 Four British relief workers and two Irish nurses were kidnapped in Ethiopia; released on June 8.
The VC awarded to Wing Commander James Nicholson was bought at auction for £110,000 by the RAF Battle of Britain Museum.
28 The High Court ruled that the distribution of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society's *A Guide to Self-Deliverance* was not illegal.

MAY

1 Workers clashed with police in cities in Poland.
2 Steve Davis beat Cliff Thorburn for the world professional snooker title.
3 Mr. Jeremy Cartland was awarded £50,000 libel damages against the BBC over a television programme on the killing of his father 10 years ago.
4 The Swedish navy exploded two missiles against a suspected submarine off its east coast.
5 *Stern* began publication of the Hitler *Diaries*; on the 6th. West Germany declared them forgeries and *The Sunday Times* cancelled plans to publish them.
At Sotheby's a suit of 16th century armour from Hever Castle fetched £1.925m.
Mass protests in France against economic measures.
6 New police powers on drinking-driving came into force.
7 Sections of the PLO mutinied against Mr Yassir Arafat.
10 The IRA killed the wife of an Army sergeant in Londonderry.
The Attorney-General ruled that the post-coital pill was "not illegal".
11 Russia again refused to allow Dr Sakharov to leave the country.
In one week two black men died while in police custody in Dirkiesdoup, Transvaal.
British Rail losses for 1982 were £174m.
12 The Plowden Committee on Top Salaries recommended: 7.2 per cent increase for Forces; 6 (plus 2.7 Jan '84) for doctors; 47 per cent for Cabinet ministers – the last rejected by the Cabinet.
The Government accepted a Security Commission plan for lie detectors to be used on security staff.
13 The Speaker, Mr George Thomas, retired; on June 15 Mr Bernard Wetherill was elected as the 154th Speaker.
14 The Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Mgr Bruno Heim, criticised the CND secretary, Mgr Bruce Kent; on the 20th the Vatican disassociated itself from the criticism.
16 An RUC officer was shot dead by the IRA in Belfast.
17 Medium-range missile negotiations resumed in Geneva.
Mrs Elizabeth Kirkpatrick was abducted by the Irish National Liberation Army to prevent her husband becoming *an informer.*

> "Here we are with a cut-and-run election a year before this Parliament needs to be dissolved.
> If the recovery is on the way why the rush?"
> Michael Foot on election announcement. *May 9*

18 The inquiry into the Penlee life boat disaster of Dec 19, 1981, cleared the coastguards and the master and crew of the coaster.
At Sotheby's, New York, 16 paintings fetched £10.45m.
20 A car bomb killed 18 people in Pretoria; on the 23rd. South Africa Air Force bombed Maputo, Mozambique, in retaliation.
Inflation fell to 4 per cent.
24 The Criminal Justice Act came into operation.
25 Syrian jets fired at Israeli planes over Lebanon.
A ferry on the Upper Nile caught fire and 194 lives were lost.
The Society of Authors received £400,000 from the will of Miss Margaret Elizabeth Trask, novelist.
27 People Express made its first flight, London-New York for £99.
The High Court awarded £4m *damages against two video pirates.*
29 Eight Western leaders met at Williamsburg, Virginia.
For the fourth time in 16 years a £1m Rembrandt was stolen from Dulwich Gallery, London.
30 First meeting of the New Ireland Forum in Dublin.
31 More than 200 Ugandan refugees were killed at Kiykusa camp by guerrillas.

JUNE

1 A pay dispute at the *Financial Times* stopped production; it resumed on August 9.
First prosecution of a video "nasty" under the Obscene Publications Act.
2 A black South African miners' union won recognition.
3 At the end of a four-day blockade at the USAF base at Upper Heyford more than 750 people had been arrested.
Harry Kirkpatrick, INLA member who turned supergrass, received a life sentence in Belfast for admitted murders.
4 The dioxin waste from Seveso arrived at the premises of *Hoffmann La Roche in Basle* (*see also* Sept 24).
Wife burning in Delhi claimed its ninth victim in one week.
7 Former Nazi Heinz Barth was jailed for life for war crimes including the June 1940 massacre at Oradour.
8 BTR won control of Thomas Tilling with a takeover bid of £660m.
9 General election: Conservative 397; Labour 209; Alliance 23; Others 21; Mr Benn, Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Gerard Fitt lost their seats.
Three guerrillas of the ANC were hanged in Pretoria.
The morning sickness drug *Debendox was withdrawn by its* manufacturers.
12 Cabinet changes: Mr Francis Pym (Foreign) was dismissed and replaced by Sir Geoffrey Howe (Exchequer) who was succeeded by Mr Nigel Lawson; Mr William Whitelaw (Home) was created an hereditary peer and succeeded by Mr. L Brittan.
13 Mr Roy Jenkins resigned as leader of the SDP.
Pioneer 10 became the first machine to leave the solar system.
14 Interest rates cut from 10 to 9½ per cent.
16 The Pope began an eight-day pilgrimage to Poland; he met Mr Lech Walesa and General Jaruzelski on the 23rd.
Mr Yuri Andropov was elected president of the USSR.
The Central Policy Review Staff ("think tank") was disbanded.
17 The five crewmen of the fishing boat Archadia died when it was wrecked off the Sutherland coast.
President Reagan pledged support to President Magana's regime in El Salvador.
18 Inflation fell to 3.7 per cent - the lowest for 15 years.
One hundred people allegedly involved with the Neapolitan crime organization Camorra were arrested in Italy.
19 Mr Lixian-nian was chosen as China's first president since 1969.
20 Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited Northern Ireland.
Diamonds worth £10m were stolen from a jewellers in Mayfair, London.
A verdict of suicide was returned on Colin Roach who died of gunshot wounds at Stoke Newington police station on January 12; on the 28th an inquiry on the police handling of the case was ordered.
23 The US Supreme Court ruled that Congress could not veto presidential decisions.
24 Mr Yassir Arafat was ordered to leave Syria; his HQ was set up in Tripoli, Lebanon; pitched battles between PLO loyalists and rebels broke out on the 28th (*see also* Dec 20).
Space shuttle Challenger completed its six days in orbit.
25 India won the Prudential World Cricket Cup.
26 Five British tourists were killed and 31 injured when their coach crashed near Avallon, France.
Richard and Adrian Crane finished their 2,000-mile run across the Himalayas in 101 days.

> "I still hope it will be possible to find some place where his talents will be used to the best advantage of the country."
> William Whitelaw on sacking of Francis Pym from Cabinet. *June 12*

27 A second inquest on Signor Roberto Calvi returned an open verdict – reversing the first verdict of suicide.
A record price for an abstract – £1.512m – was paid for a Mondrian at Christies.
29 The Court of Session, Edinburgh, ruled that a local authority had no power to add fluoride to the water supply.
30 The High Court in Melbourne ruled against the building of the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam in Tasmania.
The House of Lords overruled an Appeal judgment that a husband had to leave home so that his wife could return there.
A report criticized the West Yorkshire police handling of the Yorkshire Ripper murder hunt.
Lonrho failed in its attempt to separate Harrods from the House of Fraser.

JULY

3 The IRA burnt Mr Gerard Fitt's house in Belfast.
4 The Selby coalfield began production.
5 The Government "fined" high-spending local authorities.
6 British Aerospace announced 3,500 redundancies.
The Defence White Paper showed Britain spending more per head than other leading members of Nato.
Syria refused to withdraw from Lebanon.
7 The £500m cut in public expenditure included £140m on health.
8 The Prevention of Terrorism bill was published.
An auction record for furniture was made when a Louis XVI cabinet fetched £990,000 at Sotheby's.
10 Polisario guerrillas attacked Moroccan positions.
11 *Private Eye* paid £85,000 in libel damages and costs to Sir James Goldsmith.
12 The European Court of Justice

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ruled that Britain's rate of taxation on wine was illegal.
The General Synod voted 407-36 against the reintroduction of capital punishment.
13 The Commons rejected the reintroduction of the death penalty by a majority of 145.
A landmine killed four UDR men in co Tyrone; two Catholics were killed in South Armagh.
The MCC voted not to send a team to South Africa.
14 The General Synod approved a scheme for divorcees to marry in church.
15 The European security review conference in Madrid (opened November, 1980) closed with an understanding to promote détente.
Armenian terrorists exploded a bomb at Orly airport, Paris, killing five people.
17 A British Airways Sikorsky 61 helicopter crashed off the Scillies, killing 20 people.
19 Details were revealed of the skeleton of an unknown species of dinosaur found in January in a Surrey claypit.
21 The Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* was chased by a Russian gunboat; seven members were held at Lorino, Siberia.
Public expenditure 1984-5 was planned at £126,400m.
Martial law ended in Poland.
Among the 17 life peers in the dissolution honours were Sir Harold Wilson and Mr Gerard Fitt.

"I recognised it as a dinosaur claw but I didn't know how important it was. I gave it a good crack with my hammer and the whole thing disintegrated."
William Walker, a Surrey plumber, speaking about his discovery of the skeleton of a hitherto unknown species of dinosaur. *July 19*

22 Beirut airport was shelled by Druze forces. (*see also* Aug 10).
24 Six British mercenaries imprisoned in an abortive coup against President Rene of the Seychelles were released.
25 The US flew aid to Mr Habre in Chad in his fight against Libyan-backed rebels.
26 Three Palestinian students were killed and more than 30 injured at Hebron, Jordan.
Mrs Victoria Gillick failed to obtain a court order that her daughters would not be given contraceptives without her consent.
A White Paper proposed that the Government should take over London Transport.
27 Rioting and clashes between Sinhalese and Tamils swept Sri Lanka; 52 deaths in two prisons were reported (*see also* Aug. 1).
British Shipbuilders' losses 1982-3 were £128m; 9,000 jobs to be shed in two years.
The House of Lords ruled that a female barrister could not claim tax relief on court attire.
28 In the Penrith by-election the Conservative majority of 15,421 was cut to 552 by the Alliance candidate.
The heatwave in Europe continued – 104°F in Germany.
US warships took up positions 100 miles off the Pacific coast of Central America.
29 The marriage of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent in 1978 was validated by the Roman Catholic Church.
30 An unarmed Catholic youth was killed by the UDR in Armagh.
31 Eight swimmers were drowned off the coast of Clare.
Two riders were killed in the Motor Cycling Grand Prix at Silverstone.

AUGUST

The death toll in Sri Lanka ...unted to 185 civilians; the ...nmunist Party was proscribed; ...final number of deaths was 350.
...hirty-five people were ...icted in Belfast for terrorism ...e evidence of an IRA ...rgrass; four received life ...nces.
...yan aircraft attacked Chad ...s with phosphorus bombs.
...Alison Street, 18, became the ...ritish woman to swim the ...el both ways non-stop (21 ...min).
...an hostages were shot dead ...bysters in an Avignon hotel.
...led by Captain Sankara ...Major Jean-Baptiste ...ogo in Upper Volta.
7 ...bomb exploded in ...k, Lebanon, killing 33 ...
8 ...oodless coup in ...ula, General Victores ...e President, General ...
1... Lebanese army retaliated ...e Druze shelling.
...McLean crossed the At... a 7ft 9in craft in 62 days.
1... ...try awards included the ...us George Medal to Mr ...Howard, killed trying to ...omb in Oxford Street, ...Oct 1981.
...Libyan troops took the ...of Faja-Largean.
...and dismissed 13 ...itical activists.
12 ...of protest in Chile ...regime of President ...7 people were killed.
14 ...orld athletics ...ips in Helsinki, Steve ...metres) and Daley ...decathlon) won gold ...

...ot an infiltrator. ...socialist who ...nted a job"
...ie Grant, one of ...ed left-wing ...ators at BL. *...gust 15*

15 ...ops were in action ...ebels.
...roops with Unita ...red a key town in ...
16 ...Medical ...an an inquiry into ...th treatments.
17 ...logised to France ...er the war to the ...us Barbie.
18 ...Donegal rescued ...tives kidnapped ...
21 ...line ban to Russia ...1 was lifted.
...ader in the ...enigno Aquino, ...d in Manila.
...were killed in a ...ildare, Ireland.
23 ...ence in the Sind ...tan erupted into ...with the police.
27 ...ropov offered to destroy SS20s in return for the US not deploying new missiles in Europe.
Nicaraguan insurgents increased their attacks.
28 President dos Santos of Angola rejected the withdrawal of Cuban troops.
A US athlete, Sydney Maree, ran a record 1,500 metres – 3min 31.24sec – in Cologne (*see also* Sept 4).
29 Two US Marines were killed by Shia Muslims in Beirut.
Mr Mike Spring, a disabled yachtsman, arrived at Penzance after a 2,500 mile round trip to the Azores.

SEPTEMBER

1 The US accused Russia of shooting down a Korean Airlines Boeing 747 carrying 269 people over the Sakhalin Islands; Russia admitted the act on the 6th (*see also* 14th).
2 Unemployment fell for the first time since 1979.
4 Israel withdrew from the Chouf mountain area in Lebanon, leaving war to break out between Christian and Druze militias.
Steve Ovett regained his 1,500 metres record from Sydney Maree with 3min 30.77 sec at Pieti, Italy.
6 Moderates obtained a large majority on the TUC Council.
8 The Final Document of the Madrid European Security Review Conference was published.
Rebel aircraft attacked Managua in Nicaragua.
10 Dublin expelled two Soviet diplomats for "unacceptable activities".
11 RAF fighters were in action over the Chouf mountains, Lebanon.
12 A Canadian television reporter was killed in Lebanon.
Russia expelled a US diplomat "for spying".
The National Trust acquired Belton House, Lincolnshire.
13 Father Peter Hans Kolvenbach was elected head of the Society of Jesus.
14 Sotheby's was bought by an American, Mr Alfred Taubmann.
Russia rejected any claim for compensation for the destruction of the Korean jet.
15 A limit of three per cent increase for public servants was announced.
Israel's prime minister, Mr Menachim Begin, resigned (*see also* Oct 10).
Mr Neil Kinnock renounced the Labour Party pledge to leave the EEC.

"I am 65 years old and I simply don't have the time to wait until these government officials finally arrived at an understanding of a culture that will be worthy of my native land."
Yuri Lyubimov on the threat to his theatre in Moscow *September 5*

16 Sir Clive Sinclair's pocket TV was launched.
19 St Kitts-Nevis became an independent state.
BP shares went on sale, reducing the Government's holding from 38.85 to 31.73 per cent.
The US Navy shelled Druze forces.
20 The death toll in the 17-year war in Namibia was reported to have risen to more than 10,000.
Mr George Morgan completed the longest ever walk – Tierra del Fuego to Alaska – 19,000 miles in 2,426 days.
21 The Liberal Party voted for a united Ireland.
22 Dunlop agreed to sell 25 per cent of its tyre making to Japanese Sumitomo Rubber.
Talks on the future of Hong Kong resumed.
24 At Monza, Italy, executives of the Givaudan company received prison sentences for their part in the 1976 Seveso disaster.
25 Thirty-eight IRA prisoners shot their way out of Maze Prison, Belfast, during which an officer was killed; 19 are still at large.
26 Mr Patrick Gilmour, father of a supergrass, was released after 11 months as an IRA hostage.
Australia won the America's Cup.
28 More than 6,000 tons of oil escaped in the Humber estuary when the Iranian tanker *Sivard* rammed the Immingham terminal.
29 Britain expelled a Soviet trade official for spying.
30 Job losses: 5,000 NHS; 7,000 at Chatham naval dockyard.

OCTOBER

2 Mr Neil Kinnock was elected leader of the Labour Party; Mr Roy Hattersley, his deputy.
3 The extradition of an IRA man in San Francisco was refused, on appeal.
Many PLO leaders defected from the staff of Yassir Arafat.
Interest rates cut from 9½ to 9 per cent.
4 President Reagan offered a "build down" nuclear arms deal.
5 The Labour Party Conference voted for both the NEC multilateralist policy and for a unilateralist policy.
Mr Lech Walesa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
Mr Cecil Parkinson, Trade and Industry Secretary admitted to an affair with his former secretary Miss Sara Keays; he resigned following her statement to *The Times* on the 15 th.
Richard Noble captured the world land speed record at 633.6 mph.
6 Two policemen were shot dead near Downpatrick.
William Golding was awared the Nobel Prize for Literature.
7 Publication of the White Paper proposing abolition of the GLC and metropolitan boroughs.
9 Nineteen people including four South Korean cabinet ministers were killed when a bomb exploded in Rangoon.
10 Mr Yitzhak Shamir took office as prime minister of Israel.
11 At the Conservative conference Mr Leon Brittan announced proposals for a minimum 20-year sentence for certain killers.
12 The IRA admitted killing a man "by mistake".
Mr Kakuei Tanaka, a former prime minister of Japan, was sentenced to four years in prison and fined more than £1.4m for his part in the Lockheed bribery scandal.
China began a purge of radicals, the idle, and corrupt officials.
13 Reed International announced its intention to sell Mirror Group Newspapers to investors.
15 Inflation rose to 5.1 per cent (Aug 4.7).
17 South Africa bombed Maputo, the Mozambique capital.


US army Rangers on guard after the invasion of Grenada


A Galaxy transport aircraft delivering cruise missiles to Greenham Common



Celebrating: Mrs Thatcher's return to power and Mr Kinnoch's election as Labour leader

18 Butlins camps at Clacton and Filey were scheduled to close.
19 Det Constables Peter Finch and John Jardine were cleared of all charges involving the shooting of Mr Stephen Waldorf on Jan 14.
Mr Maurice Bishop, prime minister of Grenada, was among those killed by the People's Revolutionary Army (*see also* 24th).
20 Acid rain was reported killing trees in Germany.
21 Miners voted for an overtime ban.
The High Court rejected an application by Mercury Communications for an injunction against the Post Office Engineering Union for the union's "blacking" of Mercury; the Court of Appeal reversed the judgment on Nov 9; a Lords appeal is pending.
22 More than 250,000 anti-nuclear supporters demonstrated in Bonn.
23 Two members of the Free Islamic Revolutionary Movement drove trucks containing explosives into the HQ of the American and French forces in Beirut; 242 Americans were killed and 62 French.
The 13-nation Caribbean Community suspended Grenada.

"I feel that I have both a public duty and and duty to my family to put the record straight."
Sara Keays. *October 13*

24 US Marines landed in Grenada; Britain refused to join the invasion; by the 28th a US force of 6,000 had been built up; 30 Cubans were killed; two Americans were killed and three were missing; on the 30th Mrs Thatcher said the West "cannot just walk into other countries" (*see also* 31st).
25 The Griffiths Report on NHS recommended the appointment of "general managers".
Billingham, Cleveland and Elstow, Bedfordshire, were named as possible sites for disposal of nuclear waste.
26 The Trade Union Bill introducing compulsory secret ballots was published.
27 The revised Police and Criminal Evidence Bill was published; two White Papers proposed a national independent prosecution service and stronger supervision on handling complaints against the police.
28 The Court of Appeal ruled that a priest is a "servant of God" not liable to jurisdiction in an industrial tribunal.
A US oil rig sank in South China Sea with all 81 on board lost.
30 An earthquake in eastern Turkey killed at least 500 people.
31 Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General of Grenada, confirmed he had asked the US for help (*see also* Nov 15).
The Court of Appeal ruled that parents cannot kidnap their own children and the Mr Ian Daily should not have been convicted of kidnapping.
Bishop Abel Muzorewa was arrested in Zimbabwe.

NOVEMBER

1 Mr Michael Heseltine stated that demonstrators who got near missiles could be shot.
2 BAT bid £796m for Eagle Star against Allianz Versicherang's £692m bid.
Mr P. W. Botha, prime minister of South Africa, won a large majority in a referendum to extend political rights to Indians and Coloureds.
It was estimated that 5,000 people had been executed in China since the purge began.
4 A bomb-laden truck was driven into the Israeli HQ in Tyre, Lebanon, killing 60 people; Israel retaliated by bombing Syrian and Druze positions.
In Belfast two RUC members were killed by an IRA bomb.
8 The Social Security (Age of Retirement) Bill proposing equal state pensions for both sexes was published.
10 The Queen arrived in Kenya on a state visit; on the 14th, she arrived in Bangladesh and, on the 17th in India.
12 An IRA rocket killed RUC officer Paul Clarke – the fifth policeman to die in Northern Ireland in eight days.
14 The first cruise missiles arrived at Greenham Common; on the 15th, there were demonstrators outside Parliament, and at the Common 141 people were arrested.
15 Turkish Cypriots led by Mr Rauf Denktas declared their sector of the island independent.
In Grenada the nine-member council came into office; Sir Paul Scoon abdicated power.
16 A policy statement on nuclear deterrence by Cardinal Hume was published in *The Times*.
Anti-Arafat Palestinians overran his last camp in Tripoli.
17 The National Graphical Association was fined £50,000 for contempt of court for breaching an order (Oct) not to attempt to dissuade firms advertising in the free sheets of the Messenger group of Stockport, Cheshire (*see also* 30th).
The Chancellor's economic statement included less rent aid, cutbacks in council building and possibility of increased income tax.
18 *The Times* reported details of a massacre in San Nicolas, El Salvador, on November 5 by US-trained Salvadorean soldiers; it was denied on the 19th.
20 Gunmen of the Catholic Reaction Force killed three men in the Mountain Lodge Chapel at Darkley, Co Armagh; on the 20th, the Official Union Party withdrew from the Northern Ireland Assembly.
23 The Royal College of Physicians stated that 100,000 people die prematurely due to cigarette smoking.
Russia walked out of the disarmament negotiations in Geneva.
24 Mother Teresa of Calcutta received the insignia of the Honorary Order of Merit from the Queen in Delhi; the Commonwealth Conference opened there.
26 Gold bars worth £26m, were stolen from Brinks-Mat on the Heathrow international trading estate.
27 An Avianca Boeing 747 crashed near Madrid killing 181 people.
28 E667 European spacelab was launched at Cape Canaveral.
30 *The Times* resumed publication after losing three issues because of the dispute at Stockport (*see* 17th); police and pickets clashed outside Mr Selim Shah's Messenger Group works at Warrington; the Court of Appeal ordered the seizure of the NGA's £10m assets (*see also* Dec 9 and 13).
Radioactive seaweed was discovered on the beaches near the Sellafield nuclear plant, Cumbria (formerly Windscale).

DECEMBER

1 The Cable and Broadcasting Bill was published.
The Court of Appeal upheld an injunction of Nov 18 to order the National Union of Journalists to end the strike by 14 members at Mr David Dimbleby's newspaper; the union said it would not obey.
2 The Bill to take over London Transport – London Regional Transport Bill – was published.
4 Syrian shelling on Beirut killed eight US Marines.
Two IRA men were shot dead by the SAS in Northern Ireland.
5 A car bomb planted by a pro-Israel group killed 14 people in Beirut's Muslim area.
The Protestant Action Force killed a Catholic in Belfast.
House Buyers Bill, to allow people other than solicitors to do conveyancing, was published.
Health and Social Security Bill, including measures to abolish opticians' monopoly on spectacles, was published.
6 The EEC summit meeting in Athens ended in failure to reach any agreement.
West Germany paid £8.14m at Sotheby's for a 12th century illuminated manuscript.
The Court of Appeal freed Mr Mervyn John Russell, ruling that fresh evidence proved he had not killed a girl in 1977 and for which he was serving a life sentence.
Britain's first heart and lung transplant was performed on Mr Lars Ljungberg at Harefield Hospital. He died on the 20th.
7 Ninety people were killed at Barajas airport, Madrid, when two Spanish airliners collided.
Mr Edgar Graham, an official Unionist member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, was murdered by the IRA.

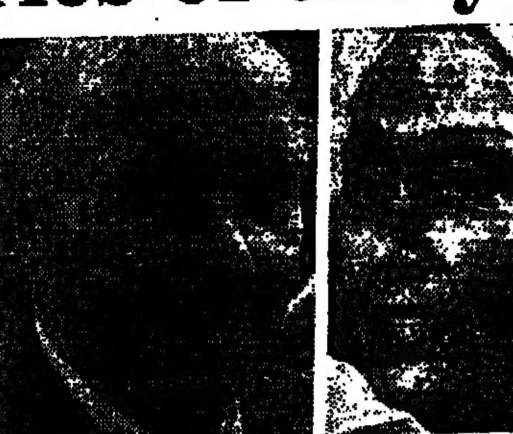
"I believe that ultimately God is their judge."
Prince Charles on Harrods bombers. *December 19*

8 A Cessna Conciliation aircraft crashed into the sea near the Hebrides, killing all 10 on board.
The US announced it would lift the Argentine arms embargo.
The House of Lords voted in favour of televising its proceedings.
A Luxembourg court sentenced 13 British soccer fans for hooliganism, assault and shoplifting on Nov 16.
9 Helicopters rescued 153 people in two sea rescues off the coast of Northern Ireland.
The National Graphical Association was fined £525,000 for contempt of court: writs seeking damages totalling £3m were served by national newspapers.
10 Raúl Alfonsín was inaugurated as Argentina's first civilian president after eight years' of military rule; the Prime Minister sent a goodwill message.
11 Thirty thousand women demonstrated at Greenham Common and 60 arrests were made.
General Hussain Ershad declared himself president of Bangladesh.
12 Shia Muslim suicide bombers attacked seven buildings in Kuwait and four people were killed.
US combat troops withdrew from Grenada.
13 Mr Len Murray repudiated a TUC committee decision to support a one-day strike by the National Graphical Association; the General Council; supported him on the 14th and on the 15th the NGA called off further industrial action.
An IRA bomb was defused in Kensington, London.
Mr Turgut Ozal became the first civilian prime minister of Turkey since the 1980 military coup.
14 President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon visited the Prime Minister.
15 The European Parliament blocked the £457m EEC rebate to Britain.
Magistrates at Grays, Essex, imposed jail sentences in drink-driving cases.
16 In the rescue of Mr Don Tidey (kidnapped by the IRA on Nov 24), near Ballinamore, Co Leitrim, two members of the Republic's Garda were killed.
The Appeal Court ruled that a leaked cruise missile document, published in *The Guardian* on Oct 31, should be handed over by the paper in order to identify the civil servant responsible; the paper did so.
An Israeli allegedly set fire to a club in Amsterdam and 11 people died.
Inflation fell to 4.8 per cent.
17 An IRA car bomb exploded outside Harrods, London, killing six people, including three police officers.
In Madrid 83 young people died in a fire at a discotheque.
18 Thirty-four Italian sailors were killed when their bus plunged off a viaduct close to the Ligurian coast.
19 Britoil cancelled an £86m oil rig from British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow, the work being 500 days behind schedule; 8,000 jobs are threatened.
20 The Rates Bill, giving power to cap council rates, was published.
Mr Yassir Arafat and 4,000 guerrillas left Tripoli, Lebanon; on the 22nd he met President Mubarak of Egypt; he arrived in North Yemen on the 26th.
21 Fifteen people were killed in an attack on the French base in Beirut.
27 In 10 days of record low temperatures in America, 270 people died.
28 President Andropov was reported to be in hospital.
Bradman's 29 Test centuries was overtaken when Sunil Gavaskar (India) made his thirtieth against the West Indies at Madras.

Obituaries of the year

The following are among the deaths recorded in 1983:
Victoria and George Cross: T Axford, VC; C Bassett, VC; L Fox, CG; Group Capt M S Keogh, GC; F Luke, VC; J Mott, GC, Bhim Singh, GC; R H King, GC; Brigadier Sir J Smyth, VC.

General: Gen J Abboud, F Aiken, N Alcock, M Aleman, Sir D Allen, B Aquino, G Bidault, M Bishop, H Blake, C Brook, Dr A Buttigeig, Lady Casey, Prince Charles of Belgium, B V Cohen, G Colley, D Curtis, Dr Y Dadoo, Admiral J B de Azevedo, Mrs M K de Boussac, Lady Docker.
D Dorticos, E Erickson, S Erlich, Miss F Fenlon, F Forde, Viscountess Galway, G Green, Gen A Gruenther, Q Guanhua, E de la Guardia.
Sir G Haynes, Mrs A R Hoffmann, Sir R Holyoake, Idris I, former King of Libya, Dr A Illia, H Jackson, H Kahn, R L Knejevitch, Mrs R Landes, Leopold III, former king of the Belgians, D Maclean, Lt Gen M Micombero, Commissioner J D Needham, H Nkumba, A Y Peishe, Dr P Phanomyong, N Podgorny, Dr M Pringle.
A Rankovic, J Rey, W Rochet, Mrs M Rolfe, L Roper, Dr I Sartawi, M C Sedgwick, Lord Sherborne, H Slade, G Thoroddsen, Miss M Trevelyan, Umberto II, former King of Italy, Dr E N vaann Kleffens, J Vorster, Col A C Wilkinson, J Wolkowicki, P Yakir, T Zhenlin.
Armed Forces: Gen Sir R Adam, Lt Gen Sir T Airey, Vice-Admiral Lord Ashbourne, Gen Sir E Barker, Capt G Bennett, RN, Air Vice-Marshal F R Bird, Gen Sir R Bray, Air Vice-Marshal Sir G Bromet, Gen J N Chuadhuri, Gen Sir A Cunningham.
Brig G M O Davy, Rear-Admiral B C Durant, Maj-Gen R A Hutton, Lt-Gen Sir J M Langley, Air Marshal G Nicholetts, Marshal of the RAF, Sir T Pike, Admiral Sir R Portal, Brig H Richards.
Gen Sir N Ritchie, Capt N E Roper, RN, Air Vice-Marshal W E Staton, Lt-Col W Stirling, W/Cdr R Stockton, Maj-Gen E G V Strickland, Gen Sir N Thomas, Lt-Gen Sir G Thompson, Lt-Gen Sir P Traver, Maj-Gen E A Tremlett, Maj-Gen D Wimberley.
Art: A Albright, J Aldridge, Sir L Ashton, Prof A Blunt, Miss L Bomberg, B Brandt, F G Broadbent, C Brown, M Cardew, Lord Clark, Miss A Colby, M Dinkel, A Garrett, E Fraser, Dr J E Hayward, Hergé, G Hermes, T Hillier, H Inlander, Prof J van Lohnisen de Leeuw, G Mackley, Prof U Middeldorf, J Miro, I Nairn, Sir N Pevsner, W Robertson, Prof J L Sert, Prof J Seznec, Sir R Sheppard, C A Sims, R Siviero, S Smith, P Swift, Miss J du P Taylor, J Van Der Zee, A Vargas, A C Willink.
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Sir T McAlpine, Bt Sir A McCance, D Morton, Sir K Peppiatt, Lord Pilkington, F Ponting, R Y Pritchard, Sir W Puckey, P S Rendall, C Rose, C Ryan, A Spanswick, J Troisgros, Lt-Col L Lowick, Sir G White, G Wightman, Lord Williamson, Sir M Wilson, Lord Wilson of Radcliffe, Sir J Wrightson.
Government and Local Services: L A Abraham, Sir J Addis, Sir J Balfour, Sir J Bowker, Viscount Boyd of Merton, G Bredin, Viscount Brentford, Commander L Burt, Sir R Campbell, Sir W Christie, Lord Citrine, Sir G Creasy, G B Drayson, Earl of Dundee, Sir F Evans, E Fletcher, Lord Garner, Sir M Gass, Miss M George, S Gordon, Viscount Head, Sir T Hickinbotham, A Jones, Sir F Kearns, R Kerr, Sir F Leggett, Lt-Col J Lockwood.
J H Martin, Mrs L Middleton, E Milne, Sir H Mitchell, Sir R Murray, Sir B Ormeroot, Sir D Procter, Lord Redmayne, Sir A Rich, Sir D Ritchie, M Roberts, Sir J Robertson, G Rogers, Sir A Rumbold, Sir B Sharwood-Smith, Sir J Shaw, R O Stanley, Sir C Thornley, Lord Wakefield of Kendal, R H Wethered, Sir D White, K Wickendon, Lord Wigg, Sir D Wilson.
Law: R I S Bax, R Borneman, Sir P Bourke, M L M Chavasse, R J H Collinson, J Drabble, D M Evans, Sir R Le Gallaid, Prof A Gledhill, T Harper, C Humphreys, Prof F H Lawson, Sir K Roberts-Wray, E G Robey, Sir S Shaw, W Sime, Lord Sorn, Sir J Thomson, Sir G Willmer.
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Lt-Col K Garside, P Geraldry, Miss M Glasgow, E H Goddard, J Gore, Dr I Grant, Miss G Gray, Sir N Hall, W Hecker, D Hopewell, Miss K Illakowicz, B Jackson, Prof T M Johnstone, R King, A Koestler, Prof W A Laidlaw, Mgr E Lamotte, J Lederer, J Leftwich, R Llewellyn, Miss N Lofts, Prof E S L Lyons, D Macdonald, R Macdonald, S Mason, J Masters, Miss G Mitchell, A Moorehead, Dr R Morgan, B Nichols, H Nixon, Prof A Temple Patterson, R Payne, Dr S A Peyton, Prof C E Pickford, Dr H Plommer, Dr R Popperwell, F Poskitt, Prof L P Pugh, Prof A G Quarrell, Miss M Renault, Prof J Robinson, L Robinson, Prof B Ryman.
Miss M St Clare Bryne, C Sandford, Prof L Schapiro, J Scotland, Prof H H Scullard, P Sedgwick, Prof D Seers, Miss A Seghers, Miss E Stead, Miss M Stirling, Prof A K Stout, Dr T Sulimirski, Prof F Sutcliffe, S Szechter, Tambimuttu, Prof O R Taylor, H van Thal, Prof R H Thomas, Sir E Turner, Sir R Turner, Prof W Ullman, C Watson, R C Watt, Mme L Weiss, Dame R West, D Williams, Prof Lady Williams.
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Dr W Kraemer, J Laing, Dr W Levitt, Sir W Liley, Dr F McGuckin, Dame I Mann, Prof Sir H Middlemiss, Prof G Mills, F T Moore, Dr W Pagel, J B Pennybacker, Dr R T C Pratt, Dr H Reid, Prof D Russell, L Savin, Sir W Sheldon, Dr L Simpson, E Slater, Maj-Gen R A Stephen, Dr C G Teall, Dr W A R Thomoson, Prof A P Waterson, N Whitely, Air Marshal Sir H Whittingham, Mrs M D Wilkinson, Dame A Williamson, Dr R Young, Dr P Zorab.
Music: D Amfitheatrof, Miss W Atwell, G Auric, Dame I Baillie, Miss S E Barrett, Miss C Berberian, E Blake, Sir A Boult, Miss K Carpenter, C Clements, Miss E Coates, L Collingwood, R Cornford, Miss J Davies, W Egk, A Ginastera, D Gramm, S Hakim, Miss J Hamilton-Smith, E Hines, Dr H Howells.
P Jacobs, H James, J Jamerson, P Kadosa, C Kullmann, W Landauer, M Lawrence, Sir A Lewis, A Loewenguth, Miss E Lutyens, I Markevitch, T Pasero, A Rose, T Rossi, A Rubinstein, B Stevens, G Tailleferre, W Todds, A Wallenstein, Sir William Walton, D Ward, M Waters, K Winding, D Wynne.
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Sir Ralph Richardson; Gloria Swanson



Sir Thomas Pike; ex-King Leopold; Keith Wickenden, MP


Anthony Blunt; Jack Dempsey; Luis Bunuel

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCKS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND. OFFICIAL DEALINGS IN THE STOCKS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON TUESDAY, 3rd JANUARY 1984.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 29th December 1983, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts, as indicated, of each of the Stocks listed below:

£100 million 3 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 1986
£200 million 3 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 1987

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market closing price of the relevant Stock on 29th December 1983 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 29th December 1983 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects *pari passu* with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions of its prospectus, save as to the particulars therein which related solely to the initial sale of the Stock. Copies of the prospectuses for the Stocks listed above, dated 27th February 1981 and 30th December 1981 respectively, may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

The Stocks are repayable at par, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below:

Stock	*Redemption date*	*Interest payment date*
3 p.c. Treasury Stock, 1986	19th May 1986	19th May 19th November
3 p.c. Treasury Stock, 1987	14th July 1987	14th January 14th July

The further tranche of 3 per cent Treasury Stock, 1986 will rank for a full six months' interest on 19th May 1984. Dealings in the further tranche of 3 per cent Treasury Stock, 1987 for settlement prior to 14th January 1984 will, in common with the existing Stock, be effected on an ex-dividend basis.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
29th December 1983

THE TIMES DIARY

Third person

A constitutional crisis looms at the next coronation over who will hold the office of Lord Great Chamberlain, the custodian of the Palace of Westminster.

The office switches every reign to one of three families: the Marquess of Cholmondeley, who is the present Lord Great Chamberlain, the Earl of Ancaster, the last, and the Marquess of Lincolnshire who *should* be the next, except that the title is extinct, the last marquess having died in 1928.

As the last marquess had five daughters, there are no laws of primogeniture as to which of the 20 odd surviving descendants should take this hereditary office. All the males and perhaps *all* the females have an equal right to be Lord Great Chamberlain.

John Brooke-Little, the Norroy *and Ulster King of Arms, says the* problem will have to be solved by the next monarch before the coronation or by the Committee of Privileges in the House of Lords.

Le snail

With French snails approaching zero population growth, the British variety is being sent across the *Channel at an ever-increasing rate.* The Somerset village of Westbury-sub-Mendip is well placed to take advantage of this new market *because* its drystone walls provide rich breeding grounds for the Mendip snail. A company based there now trails snails to France complete with garlic butter but tones down the version supplied to English restaurateurs by substituting a herb and cider sauce.

BARRY FANTONI



"Hullo, it's me again"

Feet first

The Prime Minister is a busy woman so I don't suppose she had time to read *Kindly Sit Down*, a compilation of after-dinner speeches by politicians and others collected by Jack Aspinwall MP, before she wrote the foreword to it. Had she turned to Roger Moate's contribution – "A politician is a person who approaches every subject with an open mouth" (Oscar Wilde) before taking up her own pen she might not have written: "It was, after all, the late governor Adlai Stevenson who defined a politician as one who approached every question with an open mouth."

On the way out

Unlike the genuine article, a fake broadsheet newspaper called *Not The 1984 Times* is very ungenerous with its bylines. Though articles such as "Tobacco companies move into nutrition" are not attributed, one gets a clue as to who the writers are by turning to the back page section headed Not The 1984 Times Disinformation Service. Here there is a short item about a fire which destroys El Vino's – "historic meeting place and centre of pre-revolutionary thought". Those seen escaping through a rear exit are listed alphabetically and read remarkably like a list of contributors.

Overvalued

Although £70,000 has already been spent on its promotion, the British Museum's exhibition "The Art of Korea" will not now take place in the spring. The reason for the cancellation is that the South Korean authorities put a valuation on the objects to be exhibited which *was thought by the BM to be about* three times their worth. The exhibition might have gone ahead had both parties discussed the valuation when the project was first mooted.

Out of bounds

At last week's Greater London Council question time it emerged that if the Government's plan goes through to abolish the GLC, and *transfer its assets and functions to* the domain of the borough councils, one result would be that a municipal golf course in Hainault Forest would be so divided that there would be nine holes in Redbridge, eight in Havering and one in Epping Forest.

Cold comfort

A Londoner who faced the prospect of an uncooked turkey on Christmas Day *rang an LBC* phone-in programme this week to say how grateful she was to the gas board for turning out when her oven failed to stay alight. "So everything turned out fine in the end? presenter Carol Thatcher asked.

"Oh yes", the woman replied, "a neighbour very kindly cooked the turkey."

"Hold on", Carol said, "what about the gas board?"

"Oh, they hadn't got the spares".

PHS

Bernard Levin on the morality of publishing confidential documents

When the press must publish and be damned

"Should not a reputable newspaper decline to publish a document obtained by the betrayal of a *position of trust?*" This question was asked in a letter published by *The Times* soon after the conclusion of the legal action involving *The Guardian*, which had printed a confidential document provided by a civil servant (since dismissed). Obviously, the question was not concerned only with *The Guardian*; indeed, it was prompted by a leader in this newspaper which said that *The Times* would have printed the document itself. There is a very important principle – there are *several* very important principles – involved in this business, and it is by no means so easy to come to conclusions on it as the correspondent who asked the question (to which the only answer that can be given without careful thought is "Up to a point, Lord Copper") may suppose.

First, it should be noted that *although of course secret documents* have been improperly provided for publication ever since secret documents have existed, it is only in very recent years that the practice has become so widespread that general conclusions can be drawn from it; in our day, magazines such as *Time Out* have built entire circulations, and journalists such as Mr Duncan Campbell entire reputations, on such documents.

It was the lads at *Time Out* who first spotted the vital loophole in the law through which it was possible to avoid prosecution by using only photocopies of the originals; they could then say – provided they remembered to keep their faces straight – that they had not been knowingly handling other people's property, only copies of it.

I own to a slight feeling of regret at the easier modern methods. Once, the great journalist ferrets like *Chapman Pincher and Percy Hoskins* had to spend years getting to know, and be trusted by, the officials with whom they dealt, and officials would provide, important information because they knew that it was wanted for reasons other than grinding a party-political axe; later, investigative reporters like Nicholas Tomalin got their confidential information by weeks of dogged hard work and frightful expenditure on shoe-leather. Nowdays, all that is necessary is to be in touch with the tiny trots who are to be found in every institution with secrets to preserve, and in no time the stuff is being trundled out in wheelbarrows.

Still, that does not affect the principle. *Should* a reputable newspaper decline to publish a document obtained by the betrayal of a position of trust?

Newspapers, in this aspect of their business, exist to reveal, as government (at all levels) exists to conceal, and there is no possible way in which these two interests can be reconciled. In Britain there is far too much official secrecy for our health, and governments of all stripes are always seeking ways of increasing it. (It may be taken as axiomatic that all claims made of behalf of new legislation to the effect that it is liberalizing the laws on obtaining information are the exact opposite of the truth – the Contempt of Court Act is a recent example which confirms this axiom in a most striking manner.)

The extent of our restrictions is indicated by the US Freedom of Information Act; American governments are no less enamoured of secrecy than are British ones, but the genuine independence of the American legislature ensured that this admirable, indeed noble, measure was passed into law. It is inconceivable that a whipped House of Commons would ever be allowed to *give Britain something similar,* though we need it more than the Americans, not less. (Our own, parallel, measure, aborted in the nick of time, would have greatly *restricted* our access to information.) And I am quite sure that the use of the law against those who seek to shed light on that which government wishes to remain in darkness will increase; it is very clear that those whose job it is to keep government secrets secret have now reached truly stupefying levels of laziness and incompetence, but instead of *tackling the problem there,* government will deal with it by new laws against exposure and higher penalties for it.

It is important to remember that the weight of armour in this battle is always much greater on the side of the secret-keepers, if only because they alone can increase its weight at will. It is not necessary to believe that the underdog should always be supported by the bystanders, but it *is* necessary to see clearly which the underdog is. Of course, there is vast amount of hypocrisy on the side of the exposers; who ever saw, or ever will see, an exposé of Castro in *Time Out*, of Kenneth Livingstone in *City Limits*, or for that matter of CND in *The Guardian?* But that is not an argument for restricting the flow of information; it is only the price we have to pay for increasing it.

All the same, the secret documents that are now published almost every day *are* obtained by the betrayal of a position of trust. What do newspapers say to that charge? Well, newspapers hire me to give my own views, not theirs, and my view is that no such principle as the writer of the original letter envisages can be accepted. Governments are guilty not only of concealment; they also lie. So do businessmen, so do trade union *leaders, so do police and military* chiefs, so do nuclear disarmers, so do party officials, so do quangocrats, so do newspaper proprietors. (I have even heard tell, though the report should be treated with the utmost circumspection, that journalists themselves have on rare occasions been known to tell something less – or more – than the complete truth.)

Nobody lies all, or even much, of the time (the belief that all persons in all positions of authority do nothing but lie from morning to night is the fallacy that pervades the letters column of *The Guardian*), but one thing I know for sure about those set in authority over us; if they did not fear exposure, they would all lie more than they do. It is not just an *informed* public opinion that is essential to democracy; it is a *truthfully* informed public opinion, and the shortfall in truth on the part of the authorities can be made good only by continuous and relentless investigation and exposure.

The man who passed on the DHSS document to *The Guardian* is not, apparently, to be prosecuted; I suspect that if the one who passed on the MoD document is apprehended, he will be. But I do not argue for a relaxation in the law itself. It is right, in most circumstances, for journalists to refuse to reveal the identity of their sources; it is also right, when they do refuse, for the law to punish them. It is clear that a newspaper which publishes a document obtained by a betrayal of trust is abetting that betrayal; it is *not* clear that it is necessarily abetting a *crime, and I think the distinction is* important. Important, mind, not absolute; if a newspaper had reason to believe that a Home Office official or senior police office officer whose job was to advise on the authorization of official telephone-tapping was corrupt or in the pay of an enemy power, who will argue that the newspaper would always be wrong (as it would undoubtedly be breaking the law) to tap his telephone, knowing that a complaint through official channels would be blocked by the man himself? (See the career of Kim Philby, *passim.*)

I would like to see a real British Freedom of Information Act, as I would like to see an end of many forms of official secrecy. But much more important than changing the law is seeing that the war on the concealers by the exposers is never abandoned. Newspapers should always strive to keep on the lawful *side of the line, and not to complain* when, if they should cross it, they are penalized. But to publish documents obtained by betrayal of trust cannot be always and automatically judged wrong, distasteful though it is. The policeman may have distasteful evidence to give, but he is not to be put out of court on that account. *Should* newspapers decline to publish material supplied by trust-breakers? Up to a point, Lord Copper.

David Watt

Margaret Thatcher's last chance

The British public, according to the latest Gallup poll, expects 1984 to bring higher prices, higher unemployment and more labour trouble. As usual, the British public speaks with the voice of jaundiced common sense.

Ministers may point to flattening curves, improving trends, and – beyond "another four years of hard slog" – the distance glimpse of posterity, where inflation stands permanently at 4 per cent or below, and the standard rate of income tax at 25p in the pound, and where tears will be wiped away from the eyes of everyone except Mr Kinnock, Mr Scargill and two million permanently unemployed. The voters will believe in this promised land when they set foot in it, and not before.

Meanwhile, in 1984, the British pilgrim band will continue to plod through the night of doubt and sorrow much as it has in the last half of 1983. There are still no signs of a serious mutiny, but not many signs of positive thinking either, and some mutterings that could easily turn nasty later on.

It is hard to fault these popular expectations. On the bright side, it is true, people may underestimate the extent of the economic recovery. It is genuinely possible (though rather improbable) that business confidence and investment will take off; that unemployment will actually fall during the year instead of merely standing still or increasing at a slower rate. But this possibility could be counterbalanced by external calamities over which no British *government has any control, such as* a financial crisis brought on by third world debts, or a violent change in oil prices.

Another way of putting the matter is to say that though we are only seven months past her triumphant reelection, Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues have astonishingly little room for manoeuvre, either economic or political. Their whole strategy has been geared to the recession – *for without the dual* collapse of trade union militancy and of commodity prices which the recession has caused, Thatcherism would have run into the buffers long since.

On the other hand, having squeezed as much advantage as possible from the situation in the form of low inflation, a productivity shake-out, and better control of public-sector wages without produc*ing the desired new growth, it is hard* to see how to make further real progress – except by fulfilling the long-postponed promise to cut taxes and lower interest rates.

This is where the present argument in the Cabinet begins. Should one, as the Chancellor urges, make room by drastic new cuts in public expenditure, including defence and the social services? Should one, as the "wets" urge, hang on to the welfare state but take the inflationary risk of Keynesian expansion anyhow? Or should one try to compromise on marginal changes (as most of the Cabinet seem inclined to do), and hope the economy will inch forward on its own account?

The first strategy might mean a massive political revolt – all the more destructive if the restraints of recession were removed. The second would involve a severe loss of ideological face, and even if this could be concealed behind a good deal of economic mumbo-jumbo, the reappearance of inflation could not. As for the compromise strategy, it probably contains the highest risk of them all – the risk of getting the worst of all worlds and facing the electorate in 1987 or '88 with nothing to show for eight or nine years of misery except lower inflation, continued high unemployment and a moth-eaten welfare state.

From a strictly economic standpoint, a definite decision among these options could probably be postponed until 1985 or even, at a pinch, 1986. This would entail, in effect, the adoption of strategy number three during 1984. But that would mean further loss of the political initiative, which in fact began to slip from Mrs Thatcher's grasp as soon as the fundamental *dilemma struck the new cabinet into* a heap last autumn.

The Labour Party is in no position to take advantage of these troubles. It is all very well for Mr Kinnock to expatiate on the revival of true socialist democracy, with bags of real worker participation, and of the restoration of "production" to the socialist canon. But how can a party which has just reaffirmed undying close relations with the trade unions – unpopular, undemocratic and self-interested as they are – devise a productive strategy? Does anyone really think that nationalizing the banks, and renationalizing all the bits of industry that the Conservatives have just sold off, will cause investment to appear in the right places? Will a siege economy and withdrawal from the EEC do the trick?

The Alliance for its part, appears to be slightly more purposeful on these economic matters since, in order to reflate, it is at least prepared to grasp the nettle of an incomes policy. But the Alliance knows, and everyone else knows, that there are huge blank spaces in its prospectus where economic policy is supposed to be.

For the moment, however, the actions of Labour and the Alliance are irrelevant. The central issue of British politics in 1984 is in the Government's hands. It is whether Mrs Thatcher has the energy, commitment and authority to impose a decisive and probably painful solution, one way or the other, on some adroit and difficult ministers, and on a fractious and skittish parliamentary party.

Prime ministerial New Year verbiage about "toughness" and so forth means absolutely nothing, of course, except in that she is feeling defensive. What matters is whether she can make up her own mind, and then make the policy stick. My impression is that if she cannot do it in the next 12 months, she never will, and her personal decline will gather pace.

Who's next for Russia's killer squads?

Brian Crozier reveals the successes – and failures – of the Soviet Union's reorganized assassination schools





Mehmet Ali Agca's attempt to assassinate a world figure (above) was initially intended by the KGB, he later alleged, for Lech Walesa (far left). A poison umbrella claimed Georgy *Markov (centre)*; a poisoned drink failed against Hafizulla Amin

The Pope will have been more concerned with the state of the soul of the Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca than with the plotters behind him when the two met face to face in Rome's Rebibbia jail, where Agca is serving a life sentence for his attempt to assassinate John Paul II on May 13, 1981.

Agca caused a brief sensation some months earlier while going between his cell and the resumed inquiry into the plot, and in particular into the "Bulgarian connexion", when he said he had been trained by the KGB.

He caused a further sensation by telling Judge Ilario Martella's court of inquiry that the KGB had trained him to kill not the Pope but Lech Walesa, who visited Rome in January that year. Italian security was particularly tight for the Solidarity leader's visit, and the attempt was abandoned. Instead, he fired at the Pope, security being comparatively slack as his open-top vehicle passed through a throng of pilgrims in St Peter's Square. It is hard to say which, if any, of Agca's statements is true, and the inquiry now seems likely to peter out in a welter of unproven allegations, alibis and contested evidence.

There is, however, a reality independent of charge and counter-charge: the KGB does have a highly trained professional sabotage and assassination unit.

Originally known as Department V, the unit was apparently disbanded in the 1970s, after the defection of Oleg Lyalin, its man in London. But it has since been reconstituted, much as the Comintern was reconstituted as the International Department of the ruling Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) two or three years after Stalin had "dissolved" it in 1943.

After Lyalin's defection, 105 Soviet agents were expelled from Britain in September, 1971. Lyalin revealed precise plans for the destruction of the nuclear early warning system at Fylingdales in Yorkshire, and of the long-range communications establishment at Orfordness in Suffolk, and even for the poisoning of London's water supplies.

Officially Department V was dead; in fact, its work was transferred

In the wake of these revelations, the Soviet Politburo decided that the existence of Department V was embarrassing. Its representatives were withdrawn from all over the world.

Officially, Department V was dead. In reality, its machinery was simply transferred to the 8th Department of Directorate S, First *Chief Directorate, KGB. The First* Chief Directorate is the KGB's arm of foreign intelligence, and Directorate S is responsible primarily for the recruitment, training, infiltration and running of "illegals" – Soviet intelligence officers who, like the notorious "Lonsdale" in the naval secrets case in 1961, merge into the environment of the country to which they are assigned, under an assumed nationality and identity.

At the height of the Cold War and throughout the 1950s, strong-arm tactics, including assassination, were much in use. One of the KGB's predecessors, the MGB (Ministry of State Security), was a frequent practitioner. When the present KGB (Committee of State Security) was set up in 1954, sabotage and assassination were allocated to Department 13.

Favourite targets then were prominent exiles such as Lev Rebet, a Ukrainian émigré leader, who was assassinated in Munich by the Soviet agent Stashinsky in 1957. Occasionally, however, foreigners were selected for removal. Occasionally, too, things went wrong. In 1962, for example, the KGB mounted a plot to kill the Shah, but the operation failed because of a last-minute technical hitch.

At the 8th Department's training complex, known as Balashika – 15 miles east of the Moscow ring road near Gorkovskoye Shosse – selected candidates are trained in sabotage and paramilitary operations. Until four years ago, only a few First Chief Directorate officers were given methodical training in such areas, but the rapid expansion of Soviet adventures abroad over the past few years forced the pace. The main problem was to find enough trained men to take part in, and especially to lead, special operations when the decision to invade Afghanistan was taken in 1979.

Now *all* Directorate S officers must undergo special operations training, either on first entry or between overseas postings. The "subjects" are: assassinations (planning and execution), and sabotage, especially of water supplies, power stations and communications.

At the planning stage of the invasion of Afghanistan the decision was taken to assassinate the then President, Hafizulla Amin, whom Moscow considered not pliant enough. He was eventually killed in his Kabul palace by Soviet special forces, but the KGB had already unsuccessfully attempted to remove him before the invasion.

A Directorate S officer, Lt-Col *Talebov*, was *infiltrated* into the palace, posing as a cook. Raised in Azerbaijan, Talebov could pass as an Afghan. The plan was for him to slip poison into Amin's daily glass of fruit juice. Amin, however, was well-versed in the history of poisons administered to eastern potentates, and well aware of his precarious hold on power. He had already been diluting his drinks by mixing small quantities from different glasses of juice. Thus diluted, the poison was ineffective.

Soviet citizens do not, incidentally, have the monopoly of the Balashika training facilities. Selected satellite intelligence officers are also "processed" there, and in a different part of the complex, third world "freedom fighters" are also trained.

Involvement of foreign services widens the death machine's scope

The "outsiders" certainly include members of the Bulgarian Secret Service (Durzhavna Sigurnost, or DS), who have long had close links with Directorate S, and members of the Cuban DGI (Dirección General de Intelligencia). The involvement of foreign services enormously widens the scope and flexibility of the assassination machine. For sensitive jobs, the Russians can sub-contract with Bulgarians, Cubans and others; they in turn can sub-contract with professional criminals or freelance terrorists.

In such cases, the hired killers would probably be unaware of the identity of their ultimate paymasters. Given the close control exercised from the start by the KGB over the Bulgarians, in particular, it is inconceivable that the latter would eliminate even their own nationals without consulting the Russians. This is truer still in the event of major targets of no direct Bulgarian interest, such as the Pope or Lech Walesa.

The killing of the BBC Bulgarian language service translator, Georgy Markov, in 1978, would presumably have been an autonomous operation planned in Sofia, but even then the Soviets would have been consulted.

Important though Directorate S is within the KGB, the military arm of Soviet intelligence, the GRU, which gets the International Department's directives through the Defence Ministry, plays a quantitatively more important role in the fields of assassination and sabotage. The GRU's 5th Directorate, Department 2, has overall control of the Red Army's special forces which operate under the instructions of subordinate RU (Intelligence Directorate) formations with each group of Soviet Armies or a Military District.

The Soviet Special Forces (Spetsnaz) were at one time known as Diversionary Brigades. Most of the Spetsnaz units are committed to deep penetration operations behind the lines, initially *in small groups* but with larger formations in reserve.

Some would be infiltrated into Nato territory before any planned outbreak of hostilities, to sabotage communications, key defence installations and power and water supplies. For the most part, they wear Airborne Forces uniforms while on duty in the Soviet Union. In wartime, however, they would if necessary be issued with Nato uniforms and weapons.

If recent reports from Sweden are studied, the activities of the Spetsnaz would not be limited to Nato countries. The left-wing Swedish daily *Aftonbladet* recently carried detailed reports of the training of Spetsnaz troops for operations in neutral Sweden as well as in Nato countries. The newspaper claimed some units were already in Sweden.

Assassination is known to be a key element in Spetsnaz training. Certain units are assigned to seek and kill all political and military leaders in a target country, thus paralysing the command structure at the time of invasion, or even before an attack is launched. Some of the USSR's best athletes are allocated to such units, in which the human qualities of nerve and discipline are highly prized – just as in the Olympic Games.

Philip Howard

Sam, Sam, pick up thy Newspeak

Dr Samuel Johnson: Sir, the *reciprocal civility of authors* is one of the most risible scenes in the farce of life. But I felicitate you that next year your romance *1984* is to be puffed and reassessed, and even read. The mills of publicity are already grinding. I ask whether you have any posthumous epexegesis that you would care to deliver about your atrabilious prognostications.

George Orwell (Eric Blair): I chose 1984 as the title and date of the book only as a second thought, and I could see even then that it was going to be a difficult year, when the pigeons came home to roost. The most surprising *thing* that has happened is that the language has proliferated into cotton wool rather than shrunk into steel. My Newspeak was meant to reduce the vocabulary, eliminate nuance, and provide a simple black-and-white language for the inhabitants of Airstrip One, for whom all modes of *thought other than the correct one* would be impossible. In fact the language has become so euphemistic and inflated with gobbledegook that it is common for entire speeches to be made and articles written on foundations of painted smoke rather than any thought at all.

Sam: When I was young, and starting work upon my *Dictionary* I thought that I could freeze the English language in its perfect state. I soon recognized that change in *language is inevitable. If* the changes that we fear be thus irresistible, what remains but to acquiesce with silence, as in the other insurmountable distresses of humanity? Give me an example of the change that you observe in English.

Orwell: I got nearer to it in an essay then in the book *1984*. In it I offered as a joke a translation of *Ecclesiastes*, chapter 9, verse 11. You will remember the passage, Sir, about the race not being to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. I turned this into: "Objective consideration of contemporary phenomena compels the conclusion that success or failure in competitive activities exhibits no tendency to be commensurate with innate capacity, but that a considerable element of the unpredictable must invariably be taken into account." That seems to me to be the way in which some politicians, journalists, and sociologists have corrupted the language, into flatulence rather than regimentation.

Sam: Sir, that is to use language to break wind rather than to convey thought in precise words. But in all this retrospection of your prophecies you suffer not alone. Every writer has the same difficulties, and, perhaps, every writer talks of them more than he thinks.

Orwell: You too, Dr Johnson, are about to suffer from the glare of publicity, for 1984 is, I think, the two-hundredth anniversary of your death. I imagine that we are about to have solemn bicentenary celebrations and commemoration from the publishers, the hacks, and perhaps even from some of the many who still read and love your works.

Sam: We must clear our minds of cant about these anniversaries. That deathbed that I feared so much, so unnecessarily, for much of my life may seem a sorry occasion for celebration. But we both worked, miserably poor, in Grub Street. We both know that there is nothing more appropriate than an anniversary as a peg on which to hang a pious article. The publishers and scribblers must eat.

Orwell: I hear that there is to be a Johnson international conference in July in Lichfield, London and Pembroke College, Oxford, that nest of singing birds, where you were a gay and frolicsome fellow, and passed the happiest part of your life.

Sam: Sir, I was mad and violent. It was bitterness which they mistook for frolic. I was miserably poor, and I thought to fight my way by my literature and my wit; so I disregarded all power and all authority.

Orwell: Does it occur to you, Dr Johnson, that we are an odd pair of friends to find together, apart form the anniversary we share in 1984?

Sam: I am Tory and a Jacobite; you are a republican and not even a vile Whig, but a socialist. And yet we share a bottom of Englishness.

Orwell: We both made jokes. We are both praised by people who have never read us, and who would be shocked if they did. We both know the business of writing and living. We both moved at ease through the English class system.

Sam: Sir, we are well-matched and good friends. Even if we were not, the rogues would be matching us together in 1984 for calendrical convenience. Let us resolve to enjoy it.

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TIMES PAST THE TIMES

P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

PROTEST, NOT SABOTAGE

Two overriding considerations must shape the authorities' handling of the Greenham Common protest. The security of the missiles and the operational function of the base must be guaranteed at all times, including the land deployment of the missiles. And the measures taken to prevent interference must be such as not needlessly to provoke it, and such as to minimize active opposition to the policy of nuclear deterrence into which the cruise missiles at Greenham Common fit. All other considerations are secondary: the expense of policing, the affronted feelings of the Newbury bourgeoisie, the whereabouts of the limit of the right to peaceful protest. Important as these other matters are their importance is secondary.

It looks as if the civil authorities are getting themselves into a position to be able to mop up the encampments around the perimeter when they judge the moment to have arrived. Newbury district council has armed itself with new by-laws authorizing the removal of "buildings", including tents and bivouacs, from the common. The Ministry of Transport is blowing the dust off a road widening scheme that would cut the ground from under the feet of the campers at the main gate. If all moved in concert they might deprive the resident protesters of any lawful purchase in the immediate vicinity of the base.

So long as the women of the "peace camp" simply waved the flag of protest there was little justification for forcibly clearing them off. But since the arrival of the missiles the camp has also taken on the character of a base for offensive operations. There have been several mass assaults on the outer fence bringing sections of it down and causing personal injury; and there have been several raiding parties which have cut through the wire and moved forward towards the heart of the military base, spending several hours before being picked up or giving themselves up. The latest was on Tuesday evening when three women made the air traffic control tower which was unmanned at the time.

The purpose of these raids so far has been to make a point, not sabotage. The women in the control tower, by their own account, had much delicate equipment at their mercy but did nothing worse than scrawl the spine-chilling message "Greenham women are everywhere" before looking for someone to surrender to. The United States peace-keeping force at Greenham is not in the same predicament as their compatriots in Beirut. But the aggressors, in this case women, are making the military authorities look foolish, which is almost as bad as making them look unsafe.

Improving the internal security of the military base is still a higher priority than clearing the women from the common, the immediate effect of which would probably be redoubled attempts at interference. The ease with which small parties of intruders can gain entry and wander about inside the base is disturbing, because, even if they remain fairly harmless, it means they are able to approach the area where guns are at the ready, raising the possibility of a politically disastrous misadventure.

Speaking of these matters in a short Commons debate just before the recess, Mr David Mellor, a junior Home Office minister said, "I go so far as to say that if a person has reached the area where that possibility arises [where servicemen would have to consider using firearms], it will be clear that he or she is not in the business of peacefully demonstrating against cruise missiles." That is a comfortable assumption that the latest capers at Greenham Common appear to contradict. They stir the uneasiness that comes from absence of clarity about the circumstances permitting recourse to firearms.

The missiles are American weapons and it may be presumed that in the last resort American servicemen are responsible for their safety. British servicemen in their lawful use of firearms to protect life or vital installations are subject to the doctrine of minimum force as interpreted by the English courts. Similarly, according to Mr Mellor,

> The use of firearms by United States servicemen [stationed in Britain] is governed by rules of engagement designed to ensure that fire is opened only in accordance with the law of the land [this land?] and the doctrine of the minimum force that is necessary and reasonable to protect life and vital installations.

That is good to know. But what of jurisdiction? The value of rules of engagement depends on how they are enforced.

Under the Visiting Forces Act if a visiting serviceman commits an act that is an offence against the law of both countries there is concurrent jurisdiction of United Kingdom courts and courts of the visiting force; if the act is in the course of duty then the authorities of the visiting force have primary jurisdiction and the right of jurisdiction of our courts comes into play only if the visiting military authorities do not exercise theirs. In other words allegations of improper use of firearms in the circumstances envisaged would fall to be dealt with by the American authorities, the jurisprudence of whose military courts is little known to us.

A MULTINATIONAL FORCE FOR ALL THAT

American impatience with Unesco is easy to understand. Unesco wastes money and does a lot of silly things. It puts out a good deal of high-minded drivel. It gets involved in political disputes over matters such as the status of Israel. Too often its members indulge in the luxury of abusing the developed nations that provide most of its funds. It wastes time and money on pernicious ideas like the "new world information and communications order", which is a cover for attempts by undemocratic regimes to control information. It deserves a bit of a shake-up and a fresh look at its aims and programmes. Probably it also deserves a new director-general.

Whether it deserves to lose the United States altogether, as is now threatened by Washington, is more questionable. Its imperfections reflect the imperfections of the world. Its composition reflects the emergence of new nations. When some of these rail against their richer benefactors they are saying something genuine about their own politics whether justified or not. When political disputes intrude they do so because a sufficient number of members think they are important. When woolly dreams prevail they do so because of innate human tendencies to fantasize about how much better the world might be if it were not as it is.

All these things are part of the uncomfortable and unsatisfactory state of international politics today. Tempting though it is to run away from them, especially for a country with strong isolationist traditions like the United States, the better course is to stay in and fight. Unesco is not all bad. About thirty-seven per cent of its budget goes towards educational programmes, thirty per cent to science and eleven per cent to culture. The more objectionable activities take a very small part of the budget. If the United States wants to make a persuasive case for leaving it must explain why it thinks that the main core of practical programmes is not worth supporting. Would someone else take over Unesco's role in teaching Cambodian refugees to read? Would someone else send scientists to hold back the encroaching deserts of northern Kenya? Would someone else have rescued the temple of Abu Simbel? Would someone else take over Unesco's attempts to restore the Buddhist temples of Java and conserve the Valley of Katmandu?

Even if the answer to some of these questions is yes it remains likely that the destruction or drastic reduction of Unesco's work would leave large gaps in worthwhile fields of endeavour. Does the United States intend to plug these gaps by spending the money it saves on direct bilateral assistance to the same or equivalent projects? If so, it will need to show that the money is better spent that way. If not, it will need to explain why the projects are not worthy of American support. Strong and clear arguments on these points would be more persuasive than wholly justified but not wholly relevant complaints about minor programmes and the idiocies that go on around the perphery and at meetings.

Great powers tend to lose dignity when they appear too thin-skinned or too upset when a joint enterprise does not go entirely their way. The best hope now is that the prospect of American withdrawal will shake Unesco into a re-examination of its shortcomings and thence to reforms which enable the Americans to re-consider. This is not an impossible task, especially if the Americans play an active reforming role in the coming year. If they merely sit on the sidelines and sulk the chances are that Unesco will deteriorate and American interests will not reap any noticeable benefits.

GETTING CLOSER TO THE PAST

"For a change, we had quite a big issue to decide at the Legislation Committee. Ages ago . . . Harold Wilson had persuaded the Cabinet to accept in principle the reduction of the fifty-year limitation on the publication of state documents, to thirty years. Whitehall didn't like this, and had resorted to the usual delaying tactics. . . . There was no doubt about it, the Foreign Office had launched a counter-attack."

Richard Crossman's Diary drove a coach and horses through the thirty-year rule. As a result, we are let into the secret discussion behind this exemplary reform enacted by the second Wilson administration. His entry for April 25, 1967, depicts the unease felt by the guardians of official secrecy at the prospect of the public and the press getting hold of thirty-year-old stories missed, as so many were, by the political journalists of the day.

Whitehall's reservations found an eloquent spokesman when the Public Records Bill passed through the House of Lords in May, 1967. Lord Bridges, former Head of the Civil Service, said he doubted if a thirty-year rule would "give public servants the degree of confidence which they ought to have so that they can put out the facts absolutely fearlessly without any thought of their being disclosed prematurely". Bridges thought a forty-year rule "would be absolutely safe".

Despite his plea for four decades of confidentiality, the campaign by Britain's contemporary historians for a twenty-year mitigation of the fifty-year rule established by the Public Records Act 1958, was crowned with success. This time, roles have been reversed. Sir Douglas Wass, Lord Bridges's successor-but-five as head of the Treasury, has opened the campaign to trim the thirty-year rule while the contemporary historians have sat in silent contentment at their table in the Public Record Office calmly turning the pages of the Attlee administration.

Indeed, a fissure is instantly detectable between their views and those of Sir Douglas. Some scholars maintain that the thirty-year rule has already sullied the purity of the archive. Contemporary civil servants – having seen the discomfiture of Foreign Office men, involved as young officials in forcibly repatriating Russians in 1945-46, as a series of chilling minutes have been unwrapped – are more cautious in what they now commit to paper. When the 1940's files were created there was not even a fifty-year rule. Some historians conclude that if you want the truth to emerge one day the price to be paid is a fairly hefty period of secrecy.

Sir Douglas Wass has very different motives for what he implies, though does not state, would be a ten-year rule (except for sensitive foreign, defence and intelligence material). They rest on a wider public interest not on the narrow, scholarly premise of the historian. The fifth of his Reith lectures, though it stressed the desirability of enabling the scholar to undertake documentary research while those who made the policy were still in a condition to be interviewed, was all about informing the citizen about what is done in his name by government. Sir Douglas mentioned the Bridges caveat, only to dismiss it. It did not justify a retention period of thirty years.

Public interest in this instance does outweigh scholarly preference. Even at the easily exaggerated cost of diluting the archive – officials under pressure do not constantly have the annual release at the Public Record Office in mind – it is of considerable benefit to have the recent past in a clearer focus for those who would make sense of the present. For example, if the Wass rule prevailed and not that established by the Public Records Act 1967, next week the newspapers would be carrying at least some of the inside story of Mr Heath's 1973 winter crisis, a period already distorted by myth-makers of one kind or another in Mrs Thatcher's Tory Party.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A royal guide to path of peace

From Mr Richard S. Rowntree

Sir, There is always the danger of the impact of Christmas Day messages being lost because of assumptions that they are more to do with pious hopes than the actual realities of the world in which we live. This has never been true of the Queen's annual broadcasts and this year she has directed the country's attention to the most urgent problems facing us.

In stressing the need for genuine communication between the peoples of the world in seeking solutions to the uneven North/South distribution of our planet's resources and the requirement for less nationalism and more interdependence her Majesty has outlined the objectives of a peace movement to which all responsible people should commit themselves wholeheartedly.

Nineteen eighty-three has been a year in which the increasing realisation of mankind's potential for self-destruction has caused divisions between those who share the common goal of peace. Yet the unilateral/multilateral argument, deeply and urgently felt as it is by both sides, is not at the heart of the matter.

May 1984 be made the year in which all work for those vital priorities for peace for which the Queen has called.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD S. ROWNTREE,
Kingthorpe,
Pickering,
North Yorkshire.
December 26.

Sellafield thoughts

From Dr John Twidell

Sir, Obviously 1984 has arrived. In reporting to Parliament about the radioactive emissions from the Sellafield reprocessing plant, Mr Patrick Jenkin stated in consecutive sentences:

a. "The radioactivity in the samples was well below the level that would constitute any hazard to the general population in the area" and

b. "The main concern is that anyone handling the more active samples from the beach could exceed the annual dose limit for the skin after only comparatively brief direct contact."

The statements are a clear case of 2+2=5. The public is being treated as innumerate (what is "comparatively brief") and irrational ("below the level" yet "exceeds the limit").

Should we now expect notices on the Sellafield beach to read: "This beach is safe for the public when the public does not enter"?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN TWIDELL,
University of Strathclyde,
Department of Applied Physics,
John Anderson Building,
107 Rottenrow,
Glasgow.
December 23.

Judicial appointments

From Professor John Griffith

Sir, Despite my calling, I do not wish to argue with Mr Scruton when he suggests (Feature, December 20) that judges should not be appointed from those who read law at a university. He says they need "imaginative understanding, literary competence and common sense" and who shall say he is wrong?

On December 7, 1983, the Lord Chancellor dismissed an Old Bailey judge who had been convicted on two charges of smuggling. This seems to me to raise questions closely related to and, perhaps, even more important than those concerned with the training of judges.

How are judges appointed? How are their qualities assessed? How do we assure ourselves that mistakes are not made? How is the public to be protected?

We know that the Lord Chancellor appoints most of them and that the Prime Minister appoints the most senior. But the procedures are not known and, given the firm belief of most people in the independence of the judiciary, is it desirable that appointments should be in the hands of politicians, especially perhaps those key appointments of the Master of the Rolls and the Lord Chief Justice?

Other countries have other methods which seem to avoid the involvement of politicians. Might there not here be a cause for inquiry?

Yours truly,
J. A. G. GRIFFITH,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
December 21.

Non-nuclear options

From Mr Walter Stein

Sir, Your leader of December 5 asserts that "some lip service is paid (by CND) to the need to study alternatives to nuclear defence; but the disciplines involved in a posture of armed neutrality are based on the fundamental premise that peace has to be fought for and always defended. Those premises are totally alien to the unilateralist doctrine".

This assertion is totally groundless. It also rests upon an ill-informed public image of "the unilateralist doctrine" for which *The Times* itself bears an important share of responsibility.

The leader's assertion is groundless since unilateral *nuclear* disarmament is wholly distinct from positions denying the premise that "peace has to be fought for and always defended" or which favour total military disarmament.

Unilateral nuclear disarmament can be based on strategic judgments that nuclear deterrence, especially in its present forms, is a recklessly irrational means of defence; or on the moral judgment that "the megaton nuclear bomb is the nearest thing to incarnate Evil in this world" – as another of your leaders (November 18) so memorably conceded.

Either of these judgments, or a combination of both, suffices to authorize "the unilateralist doctrine". And a large proportion of CND members support unilateral nuclear disarmament on these grounds.

There is nothing "alien" to the premise that "peace has to be fought for and always defended" in these positions; and, though CND naturally includes absolute pacifist (a commitment no believer in Just War ethics should fail to respect), its main moral commitment is "*nuclear* pacifism" – i.e., the concluson that "the nearest thing to incarnate Evil in this world" can never be justifiably used and that therefore its threatened use (involving conditional intentions to use it) also cannot be justified.

Whilst absolute pacifism of course entails nuclear pacifism, nuclear pacifism does not entail absolute pacifism, and it is highly damaging to the currency of public debate to project "the unilateralist doctrine" as "alien" to any constructive concern for defence.

There is, in fact, clear evidence that a serious search for alternatives is taking place within the unilateralist movement. A month or two before the election, after more than two years of research, the Alternative Defence Commission published a report, *Defence without the Bomb*, exploring the implications for British and European defence policy of a nuclear unilateralism which stresses "that peace has to be fought for and always defended."

Most of the responses this report evoked acknowledged its serious relevance to present defence dilemmas. It seems doubly unfortunate that *The Times*, which chose to ignore its publication, now chooses to assert that "the unilateralist doctrine" can only pay lip service to such concerns.

It is not merely a question of fair understanding. At a time when the peace movement on the one hand and ever increasing numbers of Nato authorities on the other are coming to share a common perception that radical transformations in the business of defence must now be taken in hand if the business of human life is to continue, this measure of common ground should surely be cherished and nourished.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER STEIN,
148 Curly Hill,
Middleton,
Ilkley,
West Yorkshire.

The reference in Mr Hamilton's letter yesterday should have been to Paddington Green police station, not Kensington police station.

Promising way to stability in Ireland

From Lady Ewart-Biggs

Sir, Dr Garret FitzGerald, writing in your columns (December 23), has asked the British Government to join "with constitutional politicians in Ireland in a single urgent effort to create structures which will bring peace and real political progress".

I believe people on both sides of the Irish Sea could welcome such a commitment. For, recognising it as a practical measure to help our two democracies in their fight against the growing common threat, they might now eschew the old fear that any Anglo-Irish rapprochement can come only as a prelude to British withdrawal from Northern Ireland and the reunification of the island.

The Dublin Government, with great courage, have taken a serious initiative in setting up the Northern Ireland Forum, the objective being to re-examine and reassess some of Ireland's own entrenched positions and thereby try to determine a new path forward towards peace and stability. But any proposals emanating from this forum can be rendered effective and channelled to the common good only if met with a positive response from British political leaders.

Let us hope, for all our sakes, that such a response will be possible and forthcoming. For the increasing pressures and strains under which the British administration in Northern Ireland is struggling can only be relieved by an unequivocal statement of resolve and mutual trust between the two governments. And I feel sure that a vast majority of the British and Irish people, sickened by the carnage and not wishing to see so many of their loved ones die in vain, could both accept and welcome the Irish Prime Minister's proposition as the only way forward.

Yours faithfully,
JANE EWART-BIGGS,
House of Lords.
December 23.

From Mr David Morrison

Sir, In the wake of the Harrods bombing Dr Garret FitzGerald writes that "The only convincing way that governments and politicians can now demonstrate their resolution to stand against terrorism is to act urgently and resolutely together on the political front . . ." (*The Times*, December 23).

Since the Irish Government (and the IRA) believes that Northern Ireland should eventually be part of an all-Ireland state I assume that the joint action Dr FitzGerald has in mind will not be designed to give Northern Ireland's position within the UK an air of permanence. Rather it will seek to emphasise Northern Ireland's distinctiveness within the UK and, if possible, grant the Republic some small measure of sovereignty over it.

Many people in Britain and in Ireland would welcome political action of this kind but, let there be no doubt about it, the effect of such action would be to encourage the IRA to engage in further military activity like the Harrods bombing.

The IRA's objective is to end Westminster sovereignty over Northern Ireland prior to putting it under the sovereignty of Dail Eireann and steps in that direction taken by the British and Irish governments in response to the Harrods bombing will inevitably encourage them to further action in the reasonable expectation that further action will be rewarded with further steps towards their objective.

In political terms the IRA is not the enemy of the Irish Republic, since its objective is to extend its territory by six counties in accordance with the claim to rule over "the whole island of Ireland" embodied in the Irish Constitution, a claim supported by all political parties in the Republic, including Dr FitzGerald's.

The IRA continue to fight because they believe that, despite the condemnations of their actions emanating from many quarters in the South, the South is behind them in pursuit of the claim over the North, or will be behind them when victory is in sight. That, and the uncertainty which surrounds Britain's intentions with regard to the North, is what keeps the IRA going, despite having little or nothing to show for more than a decade of war.

To disabuse the IRA of this notion an Irish government could in theory seek to remove the claim over the North in the Irish Constitution from which the IRA derives authority for its war; in theory also it could legislate to extradite members of the IRA who take refuge in the Republic after committing acts of terrorism in the UK. But in practice it will do neither, because no political leader in the Republic has dared to abandon as hopeless the aim of achieving sovereignty over the North.

That being so, only Britain can convince the IRA that its campaign is hopeless: joint political action with the Republic to that end is impossible.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID MORRISON,
98 Lansdowne Road,
Belfast, Northern Ireland.
December 26.

Jobs in Gibraltar

From the Leader of the Gibraltar Opposition

Sir, Your editorial of December 13 does not mention that not only the TGWU but also the main Opposition party, the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce and many other people in Gibraltar oppose commercialisation of the naval dockyard as a viable economic alternative that the British Government pledged itself to provide Gibraltar with in the Defence White Paper of 1981.

The reports of the consultants engaged both by the Ministry of Overseas Development and by the Gibraltar Government, if made public, would confirm what your editorial affirms, that "the hard fact is that there is no viable alternative". These reports have been made available to the Opposition but only on a strictly confidential basis and I cannot therefore expand on this aspect.

Your editorial makes comparisons between Gibraltar and Chatham. Surely only if Chatham was economically blockaded by a foreign hostile state to make its inhabitants surrender British sovereignty would such a comparison be valid. The operation of the naval dockyard in Gibraltar is acknowledged to be the base of the Gibraltar economy.

It is very possible and indeed probable that the economy of Gibraltar could be diversified in a situation where we have a normal frontier between Gibraltar and Spain and friendly relations exist, as was the case before the blockade when Gibraltar was economically self-sufficient.

By closing the naval dockyard before the Gibraltar economy can be diversified an additional burden has been placed on our besieged economy which unfortunately a commercial ship-repair operation will do little to relieve.

Please do not misunderstand opposition to the agreement reached between the Gibraltar and British governments as ingratitude but rather as deep concern that a commercial operation of the naval dockyard cannot possibly replace that dockyard as the base of our economy.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. ISOLA,
Leader of the Opposition,
House of Assembly, Gibraltar.
December 16.

Heard to be done

From Mr A. F. Daly

Sir, The press coverage of the recent "witchcraft trial" in Livorno might suggest to the the British reader that competent professional interpreters do not exist in Italy. This is not the case.

The International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) has about 120 members in Italy, some 15 of whom are domiciled in Florence, a mere 50 miles from where the trial was held. None of them was called upon to interpret however, which is not surprising in view of the huge discrepancy between Italian court rates and those charged by qualified professional interpreters (these being between 15 and 30 times higher!).

Small wonder that communication through the "court interpreters" produced such a stream of printable copy for the newspapers. But, on the other hand, what a disgrace in this age of advanced European integration!

Until the Italian judiciary recognizes interpreting as a professional skill and agrees to pay the going professional rate, we can expect to see such cases continue to enrich the local folklore while making a laughing-stock of justice.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. DALY, President,
International Association of Conference Interpreters,
As of 18 Circus Street, SE10.

How to combat glue-sniffing

From Mr Michael Woolman

Sir, Your correspondent, Mrs Lena Joy, asks (December 24) what she can or should do when confronted with 10 or 11-year-olds publicly sniffing glue along the Bayswater Road.

As head teacher of a large primary school near the Bayswater Road my advice is simple and straightforward. Mrs Joy must quietly and confidently approach the children and firmly ask them to give her the glue and the bags used for sniffing. They should then be clearly told the materials will be handed in at the nearest police station and can be claimed from there.

The children, of course, may not cooperate. If they run away they will, at least, be aware of adult concern. If they refuse to hand over the glue and bags and/or become abusive Mrs Joy must tell them, quietly and politely, that what they are doing is bad for them and the incident will be reported to the police immediately.

The pressures and freedoms of life in the 1980s, especially those eroding the traditional family units, mean many children are deprived of childhood. Despite the worldliness that such deprived 10 or 11-year-olds show they need, more than ever, guidance from responsible adults. Mrs Joy must help give that guidance.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WOOLMAN,
Head teacher,
Fox Primary School,
Kensington Place, W8.
December 25.

The new London

From Mr John Stefanidis

Sir, Piazzas and towers are replacing the squares and crescents that have made London uniquely English. Worse is to come if the proposed extension to the National Gallery were to be built. It will be an alien and banal presence in the triumphant vastness of Trafalgar Square.

There have been too many compromises and the public is never sufficiently informed, or given enough time to protest. How many people know that permission has been granted for a 300ft office tower at Little Britain, near St Paul's?

There was an international competition under the aegis of the London Docklands Development Corporation for the Elephant Lane site, south of Tower Bridge, on the river. Documentation for the competition was issued on August 8, 1983, and the entries were to be returned by October 3, 1983. August is not a propitious month for announcing a competition and not enough time was given for architects from all over the world to submit their entries.

Hay's Wharf on the South Bank has received special permission for another monumentally dull office development.

Despite the distinction of the late architect, Mies van der Rohe, the Mansion House Square proposals by him should be redesigned with the character of the City in mind.

The risk to London is more buildings which will remain as unloved as the Hayward Gallery, the National Army Museum, the new Wellington Barracks and the Barbican.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEFANIDIS,
6 Burnsall Street, SW3.

Penny-pinching

From Mr Paul Knapman

Sir, At lunch today the conversation turned to the difficulty with the halfpenny coin.

One member complained that when paying by credit card his garage always "rounded-up" in favour of the garage, but his neighbour announced that his garage "rounded down" in his favour.

There was then an interjection by a scientist. He took the view that where there was a fraction of a penny it should be rounded up or down in each case so as to leave an even number.

The lawyer opposite said that he thought this was an equitable solution.

Unfortunately no philosopher was present.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL KNAPMAN,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1.
December 21.

Wing and prayer

From Miss M. J. Dean-Smith

Sir, It was reported in *The Times* (December 23) and elsewhere that angels destined for German Christmas trees were subject to tax unless they were winged.

Your learned Correspondent pointed out that pre-Christian angels were wingless and were endowed with them only about the fourth century A.D.

But what about the seraphim, the second in the nine orders of the angelic hierarchy inhabiting the supracelestial sphere? Isaiah, a "pre-Christian", says they had six wings (Isa.vi) and with two they did fly.

Crashaw, Milton and even Pope knew that the wings of seraphim were of fire: only lesser orders of angels had wings of feathers, and merely two.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET DEAN-SMITH,
30 Beacon Hill Court,
Hindhead, Surrey.

From Mr John Field

Sir, When we exchanged presents on Christmas Day five were books. Two were printed in Hongkong, one in Italy, one in Belgium and one in England.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FIELD,
Whitebrook,
Widbrook Common,
Cookham, Berkshire.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

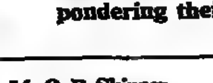
The Prince and the Princess of Wales are to visit Italy from October 14 to 29 next year at the invitation of the Italian Government.

Birthdays today

Mr David Bedford, 34; Mr Anthony Cripps, QC, 70; General Sir David Fraser, 63; Sir Reginald Groom, 77; Lord Harvington, 76; Lord Howick of Glendale, 46; Professor J. T. Houghton, 52; Air Chief Marshal Sir Edmund Hudleston, 75; Professor Rosalinde Hurley, 54; Mr John F. Mitchell, 97; Sir John Prideaux, 72; Sir Albert Robinson, 68; Lord Taylor, 73; Lord Terrington, 68; Sir Eric Weiss, 75; Sir David Willcocks, 64; Mr Clifford Williams, 57.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mr John Rimington to be Director General of the Health and Safety Executive for five years from January 1. He succeeds Mr John Locke.



Studies in concentration: Contestants in the London Junior Chess Championships at the Sir William Collins School, Somers Town, pondering their next move. From left, Demis Hassabis, aged 7, of Finchley, Audrey Butler, aged 11, of Sydenham, and Cathy Haslinger, aged 9, of Hayes, all London. (Photographs: John Voos).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. J. Hay and Dr C. M. Proby
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Major John Hay and Mrs Sally Hay, of Cheltenham, and Charlotte, daughter of Sir Peter Proby, Bt, and Lady Proby, of Elton, Peterborough.

Mr S. Burns and Miss I. Dardinier
The engagement is announced between James son of Mr and Mrs F. B. Burnes, of Birkdale, Merseyside, and Isabelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. P. Dardinier, of Vacquiers, France.

Mr J. P. W. Davies and Miss F. A. Pearson
The engagement is announced between Jack, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Davies, of Long Ashton, Bristol, and Francesca, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Pearson, of Perth Western Australia.

Mr J. H. Greenbury and Miss J. M. Walters-Rees
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Harri Greenbury, of Barnes, London, and Julia Margaret Walters-Rees, of Lisvane, Cardiff.

Mr D. A. C. Lock and Miss L. C. Needham
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Group Captain and Mrs David Lock, of Longmeadow, Prinsted, near Emsworth, Hampshire, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Needham, of Hamble, Hampshire.

Mr J. G. Melrose and Miss B. K. Southworth
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr W. G. Melrose, of Lymington, and of Mrs A. H. Melrose, of Old Bosham, West Sussex, and Barbara, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. C. Southworth, of Bournemouth.

Mr P. S. Nelson and Miss K. Moller
The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. A. Nelson, of Bramhall, Cheshire, and Karen, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Moller, of Copenhagen.

Mr Q. D. Skinner and Miss C. J. Clevely
The engagement is announced between Quentin, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Peter V. Skinner, of Ramburn Oast, Leigh, Kent, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John D. Clevely, of Latters Farmhouse, Hildenborough, Kent.

Mr P. W. H. Surgey and Miss C. E. L. Proctor
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mrs E. A. Surgey and the late Mr A. W. Surgey, of Beeston, Nottinghamshire, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Proctor, also of Beeston, Nottinghamshire.

Mr H. McC. Townsend and Miss L. E. A. Barker
The engagement is announced between Hugh, youngest son of Mr and Mrs E. L. Townsend, of Sandford Orcas, Sherborne, Dorset, and Louise, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs Nicholas Barker, of The Summer House, Wyke Hall, Gillingham, Dorset.

Mr A. S. Wilson and Miss E. K. A. Thorton
The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Keith Wilson, of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, and Emma, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Thornton, of Upper Norwood, London.

Marriages

Mr A. L. Rattray and Miss N. A. Hay
The marriage took place yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Huntly, between Mr Lachlan Rattray, youngest son of Captain Rattray of Rattray and the late Mrs Rattray of Rattray, and Miss Nicola Hay, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs J. M. Hay. Father Richard Incledon officiated, assisted by Canon McWilliam.
The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Remeny Armitage, Louisa and Clare Cameron, Marie-Theresia Mynett, Hamish Gillespie and Ivar Wigan. Mr Patrick Rattray was best man.

Mr R. Hollond and Mrs E. Goodhew
The marriage has taken place between Mr Robert Hollond and Mrs Elizabeth Goodhew.

Gatwick expansion opposed

Destruction of villages feared

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Conservationists in the Surrey stockbroker belt fear that privatization of the British Airports Authority could lead to massive expansion at Gatwick and the virtual destruction of dozens of attractive Surrey and West Sussex villages.

They are pressing the Government for assurances that a second runway will not be built at Gatwick after privatization, doubling its potential traffic to around 50 million a year, the same as Heathrow. Mr Neil Matthewson, chairman of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign, said: "The BAA entered into a formal agreement with the West Sussex County Council not to build a second runway and it was against that background that permission was given for a second terminal, raising capacity from 16 million to 25 million passengers a year by the late '80s.

"We are not political and therefore have no views as to privatization as such. But we are concerned that this agreement might not be firmly binding on a new owner; or that the Government might relax restrictions in privatizing the airport.

"We are pressing the Government to make it completely binding on whoever buys Gatwick from the BAA".

The area around Gatwick, including the new town of Crawley, was already an industrial growth area, Mr Matthewson said, and further expansion at Gatwick would put intolerable strain on housing land and on dozens of villages whose character would be completely changed.

The opening of Gatwick's second terminal in 1987 will already produce a big rise in traffic, but the people could cope with that given good neighbour policies by the airport authority, Mr Matthewson said.

A further rise to 50 million, which would be perfectly possible with a second runway, would "totally engulf us", he said.

One village, Charlwood, would probably be eliminated; there would be busy flight paths over the sizable town of Horley, and "whole new swathes of people" would suffer from noise nuisance who did not have it now.

The BAA discounted the fears. "We agreed with the local authority in 1979 not to build a second runway at Gatwick for 40 years; and the BAA is hoping it will retain its present form after privatization.

"The real point though is that there is no room for a second runway at Gatwick anyway. The only place it would have been possible is where the second terminal is being built and we took the decision that we would rather have a second terminal than a second runway."

That view is not supported by British Caledonian, Gatwick's leading airline user. Sir Peter Masefield, B-Cal's deputy chairman, has long advocated that a second runway at Gatwick could and should be built.

A B-Cal spokesman said: "For the time being we are satisfied with the BAA's plans to convert the existing taxiway into an emergency runway, although we are disappointed it has not yet happened."

The Department of Transport, which is believed to be planning privatization of the BAA in 1985, said: "There are no plans for a second runway and if there were it would be subject to normal planning inquiries."

Bottle bank scheme faltering

By Tony Samstag

Britain's recycling scheme for glass and metal, started in 1981, is faltering badly. The Glass Manufacturers Federation says it is "incredibly frustrated" by lack of government and local authority support for its bottle banks, and manufacturers of cans report little more progress.

The federation set a target of 250,000 tonnes a year, a recycling rate equivalent to 17 per cent of total British glass consumption, by 1984. The rate achieved this year is less than half that target, and has declined in recent months.

The annual glass recycling rate is now about 112,500 tonnes, only slightly higher than it was last year.

Britain has about bottle bank sites, compared with 28,000 in West Germany, and its recycling rate in 1982 was the worst in the EEC, even though a recycling plant was built at Harlow, Essex, and £5m was spent on the campaign, more than anywhere else in Europe.

In the Save-a-Can scheme 30 skips have been put on sites, 10 above the 1984 target, but no information is available on recovery rates, and a pilot plant for the recovery of tinplate cans from domestic refuse has been closed.

The recycling figures are reported in this month's issue of ENDS, the journal of Environmental Data Services.

Church news

The Rev C E Tennant, Vicar of Christ Church, Gipsy Hill, diocese of Southwark to be Vicar of St Mildred, Lee, same diocese.
The Rev M Till, Vicar of All Saints, Fulham, diocese of London, to be also Area Dean of Hammersmith and Fulham, same diocese.
The Rev J E F Walden, Honorary Assistant Curate of St Stephen, Tonbridge, diocese of Rochester, to be Rector of the united benefice of Earsham, Alburgh and Denton, diocese of Norwich.
The Rev R C Wardale, Curate of Cockerton, Darlington, diocese of Durham, to be Priest-in-charge of St Nicholas, Hedworth, same diocese.
The Rev M C Warren, Vicar of St Hilary, Greenway, diocese of Monmouth, to be Team Vicar of Grantham Team ministry, diocese of Lincoln.

Alan Whicker returns for BBC winter duty

By David Hewson, Art Correspondent

Alan Whicker, the veteran television reporter, is returning to the BBC for its winter schedules announced yesterday. He is leaving independent television to be host for a 10-week series of interview shows and to present a four-part documentary on life on a QE2 world cruise.

David Attenborough will be returning with his follow-up to the award-winning *Life on Earth* series. His portrait of the planet will be a 12-part series covering the Earth's environments filmed over nearly four years in 63 countries.

A £12m five-part series from the United States, *Thornbirds*, will be the BBC's first big drama showing, and the story of the stage will be told in a series involving Sir John Gielgud, Jeremy Irons, Diana Quick and Tom Courtenay.

Mel Smith and Griff Rhys-Jones of *Not the Nine O'Clock News* will appear in a new series, *Alas, Smith and Jones*, and Susan Hampshire and Keith Barron will be seen in a comedy series about the break-up of a marriage, *Leaving*.

The BBC is hoping to pull back some of its recent audience loses with 30 hours of exclusive coverage of the winter Olympics in February. The most recent viewing figures, for the week ending December 18, show that its share of the viewing audience fell to 44 per cent, with only one programme, *The Two Ronnies*, in the national top ten.

Mr Brian Wenham, director of programmes, said: "Our audience figures have recently begun to resume their normal healthy appearance, as we always predicted they would, and we are confident that our plans for 1984 will continue to justify the loyalty of our viewers. After a year in which BBC Television has scored a number of notable successes, we are looking forward to a period of imaginative programmes in 1984"

● The Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool and former Test cricketer, is to deliver the 1984 BBC Television Dimbleby Lecture next spring. He has chosen as his theme "The Other Britain – a call for church, state and individuals to arrest increasing poverty and unemployment in Britain's inner-city areas".

Latest wills

Mrs Joan Cowell O'Meara, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, Joan C. Ridley, the tennis player, who played at Wimbledon in the 1920s and 1930s, left estate valued at £222,965 net.

Mr Boris Luigi Avram Alperovici, of Capri, Italy, husband of the late Dame Gracie Fields left estate in England and Wales valued at £801,572 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Cook Mrs Eva Blanche, of Brentwood, Essex £218,046
Crole-Rees Mr Antony, of Hove, East Sussex £434,095
Deming Mr James William, of Bath, Avon £314,670
Ellis Winifred Louise, of Kirdford, West Sussex £650,043
Wedd Mrs Margaret Elizabeth, of Heyton, Hertfordshire £247,469

University news

Manchester
Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following:
LLD: Mr Kenneth Durham, Chairman of Unilever; Judge Taslim Olawale Elias, President of the International Court of Justice; Dame Wendy Hiller, actress; Mr Norman Quick, Chairman and Managing Director, H. and J. Quick Group; Mr William Fulbright, Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 1959-1974.
DD: Lord Blanch, former Archbishop of York.
DSc: Emeritus Professor Sir Frank Lawton, professor of operative dental surgery, Liverpool University 1956-1980; Sir Alan Walsh, FRS.
MA: Miss Marion Kershaw, Director of the North Western Museum and Art Gallery Service; Mr Cecil Thomas Latham, stipendiary magistrate; Mr Arnold May, founder and superintendent of the university library bindery.
MSc: Mr Solomon Clynes, teacher; Mr John Charles Crosby, director of the university's building services 1978-1983.
The following to be professor emeritus:
Professor A. S. Livingstone, Professor R. H. Peters, Professor D. M. Brotton, Professor R. H. Kantorowich, Professor E. L. Peters and Professor S. W. Stanbury.

Youth honoured

The Royal Humane Society's 1983 Stanhope gold medal has been awarded to Stephen Jury, aged 16, of Victoria, Australia for saving a man who fell in front of a train at Boronia Station, Victoria in February.

The medal is for the bravest deed of the year reported to the humane societies of Australasia, Canada, New Zealand, New South Wales, Liverpool, and the Royal Humane Society.

Science report

Throwing light on worm dynamics

By Hugh Clayton

Worms are among the busiest and most numerous of workers under the soil. Most farmers and gardeners are content to let the creatures work in their own way. They rely on the traditional assumption that worms are a sign of healthy soil, and that land which is shunned by the beasts has something wrong with it.

Research at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in New Zealand suggests that the role of the writhing animal is more complex than it looks. The experiments at the ministry concerned only earthworms, and not the smaller and more menacing worms associated with disease.

Earthworms are most active at night and those selected for the research in New Zealand were trained to be active at the same time as the workers who observed them. After three weeks the 165 worms of five species had learnt to perform in specially darkened conditions by day and to treat as daylight the bright illumination under which they lived at night.

They were then left for 13 weeks of spring and summer in identical glass-sided boxes in a carefully prepared, raked and sieved soil mixture at a population density aquivalent to that at which they would occur in much greater numbers in a field. They were then allowed to burrow.

Farmers know that there is a link between worms and soil health because the worms keep helping to turn the soil over. The work in New Zealand showed that some types of earthworm will burrow repeatedly in the same place even if their tunnelling work is disturbed several times by human cultivation.

That suggests that the worms are not quite the aimless dumb beasts that they appear. Two types of worm found in New Zealand, one of which is also very common in Britain, were found to push the soil sideways. But one of the close relations of the worm found in Britain pushed it vertically and was much less common.

Some types were less persistent than others in creating new burrows where the original ones had been disturbed by cultivation. One variety of small worm with a blueish tinge, also found in Britain, carried on as if nothing had happened when lime was sprinkled on the soil.

But some of the larger beasts were stimulated to greater activity beneath the soil when lime was sprinkled on the top. Lime is added to the soil of farms and gardens to correct its acidity and needs the help of worms to carry it below the surface. Some of the worms in the New Zealand experiments carried it much farther down than others.

The research produced a picture of worm dynamics that may have useful lessons for farmers. Some worms can clearly stand frequent cultivation much less well than others while some aerate the soil to a much greater depth than others. The widely held assumption that worms are good for soil may not be enough. It may need to be the right type of worm.

Source: *Journal of Applied Ecology*, December 1983; Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford.

OBITUARY

SIR LIONEL RUSSELL

Influence in education

Sir Lionel Russell, C.B.E., who died on December 26 at the age of 80, was one of the leading figures in English education during the quarter of a century which followed the passing of the 1944 Education Act.

As Chief Education Officer for Birmingham from 1946 to 1968, he had responsibility for developing a modern education service in the industrial capital of the Midlands. And increasingly he was drawn into national policy-making on education through the Association of Education Committees and the Association of Municipal Corporations, and as a trusted private adviser of Ministers. He was knighted in 1962.

Born on May 8, 1903, Edward Lionel Russell was educated at Clifton College and Christ's College, Cambridge. From 1925-31 he was a lecturer at the University of Lund in Sweden. After three years teaching English at Charterhouse, he entered educational administration as assistant director of education for Liverpool in 1935.

Professor A. H. Halsey described him as "set in the mould of the best English administrative tradition – steady, and wise, reliable and practical, humane and uncorrupted". He was also set in a certain, relatively unpartisan, tradition of Birmingham local administration, where the strong civic pride and sense of obligation personified by Byng Kenrick and Sir Wilfred Martineau (under whom Russell served) was matched by an insistence on the highest standards of meticulous administration.

Russell had the reputation of a very demanding chief – one who trained his staff the hard way: a skilled draftsman whose red pencil ravaged the drafts of others. He was a manager, not an educational theorist: he saw his job as that of creating the conditions in which good teachers could teach, not telling them what to do.

He had long-standing interests in further education and took great pride in the development of Birmingham's network of evening institutes. He was involved at every stage in the evolution of the University of Aston from its origins in the Birmingham College of Technology.

His involvement with national educational policy-making included a spell on the University Grants Committee (from 1954-63) and the Council for National Academic Awards (1967-70). He was president of the Association of Chief Education Officers for 1955-57. In 1969 he was invited by the Secretary of State for Education, Mr Edward Short, to chair an inquiry into Adult Education in England and Wales.

When the report appeared in 1973, Mrs Margaret Thatcher was Education Secretary and economic crisis was looming. The Russell Report advocated a steady expansion of adult education services over a seven-year period by a series of modest, practical and inexpensive measures. It failed to make any impact or arouse enthusiasm, least of all at Ministerial level where "a bit more of the same" made an unexciting slogan. As it happened, the seven years after the publication of the Russell Report saw adult education undermined by one spending cut after another. Both political parties paid lip-service to the Russell message; neither gave it any material support.

It was said at the time that the Russell Report had the demerits of Russell's own undoubted qualities – "caution and pragmatism and respect for the past and softly, softly into the future". It was part of Russell's personal integrity that he saw the job of his committee as to offer limited and practical suggestions for incremental improvement, not to strike attitudes.

He never married. Among his few interests outside his work was an abiding love of cricket; he was extremely knowledgeable about Gloucestershire past and present. He was a very private man, with a protective shyness which few penetrated, but behind the shyness and the formal, rather heavy, courtesy with which he treated everyone who had dealings with him, there was great kindliness and consideration.

DENNIS WILSON

Dennis Wilson, a founder member of the Beach Boys, the American pop group, died on December 28 after diving into the water from a boat at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles. He was 39.

Temperamentally the most volatile of the three brothers at the core of a group whose internal harmony rarely matched the celebrated blend of its singers, Dennis Wilson was at first a drummer; later he also sang, composed and played keyboards.

Born in Hawthorne, California, on December 4, 1944, his adolescent prowess as a surfboarder inspired his older brother, Brian to write the group's first hit song, "Surfin'" in 1961, quickly followed by several successful variations on the theme and by the establishment of a specifically Californian style of pop known as "surf music".

The arrival of the Beatles threatened the preeminence of American pop music, and that of the Beach Boys in particular. Brian, Dennis, and Carl, the youngest, responded by achieving in such songs as "Good Vibrations" and "Heroes and Villains" a musical richness and sophistication rare in pop and sometimes exceeding that of their British rivals.

Brian Wilson's various illnesses were subsequently to hinder the Beach Boys development, but their popularity on records and in concert has been maintained for more than 20 years. Earlier this year they performed in Washington for President and Mrs Reagan, thus confirming their stature as a contemporary American institution.

Dennis Wilson's contributions to the group included a series of sombre compositions, notable for imaginative musical settings and suited to his slightly hoarse delivery. An LP under his own name, entitled *Pacific Ocean Blue*, was issued in the late 1970s.

DR A. S. PATERSON

Dr Arthur Spencer Paterson, scholar, psychiatrist and physician died on December 27 at the age of 83.

He was born in Aberdeen where his father, Professor W. P. Paterson, held the chair of Divinity. He won an Open Scholarship to Fettes College, read Greats at Oriel College, Oxford, and went on to Edinburgh University where he got a first in medicine and found his vocation in psychiatry.

He won a Rockefeller fellowship and worked with C. P. Richter at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and did research in Munich.

During the next 40 years he was at the forefront of psychiatric research and treatment. He went on to posts at the Maudsley, Cassel, and Middlesex Hospitals before becoming consultant psychiatrist at the West London Hospital in 1946, the same year that he met Professor Ugo Cerletti of Rome whose work on ECT he introduced to this country.

During his 20 years at the West London, his two main aims were to organize a large and efficient psychiatric service under which patients received treatment some 18 months earlier than was generally the case, and to institute a laboratory in which ECT and other new forms of therapy could be studied scientifically.

His research attracted leading international post-graduate students with whom he did pioneering work in medical hypnosis. His publications in collaboration with these young men made him a leading speaker at conferences throughout the world and the West London Hospital gained an international reputation for psychiatric work. During this period the number of patient consultations at the West London rose from about 1,300 to 6,000 per year.

But Paterson will chiefly be remembered for his work in two fields; firstly in general psychiatry where his strength of character and his early grounding in philosophy brought successful results for those with acute personal problems, and secondly in his work in the cure of alcoholism which later became his main interest.

He retired from the National Health Service in 1966, but his healing continued in private practice for another ten years, and he often took on long and difficult cases.

Paterson was married to the former Antoinette Baxter, and in his retirement his great love was his family and grandchildren.

SIR JAMES CURRIE

Sir James Currie, KBE, CMG, who died on December 24 at the age of 76, was formerly in the Diplomatic Service.

He served in various capacities Istanbul, Santiago, Washington and Copenhagen where he was Commercial Counsellor and Consul-General. He was appointed Consul-General at São Paulo in 1956 and at Johannesburg in 1962.

Subsequently he sat on the Commonwealth Foundation, the Civil Service Commission and the Community Relations Commission.

The Rev J. M. Nicholson, who died on December 2 at the age of 75, was Archdeacon of Doncaster from 1955 to 1959 and Headmaster, the King's School, Tynemouth, from 1959 to 1970. He had been Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Newcastle.

Sir William Jenkin, CSI, CIE. Who died on December 28 at the age of 84, joined the Indian Police Service in 1919 after service in the RFC in the First World War. He was formerly Deputy Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Home Department, Government of India and in 1950-51 Director of Intelligence, Malaya.

Half yearly promotions in the Armed Forces

Royal Navy
The provisional selections for promotion to date December 31 are confirmed. The following provisional selections have been made for promotion to date June 30, 1984.

GENERAL LIST
Seaman
CAPTAIN: D W Mitchell, R F Channon, J C W Lock, J R L Ingham, R G Evans, B G Telfer, J J Blackham, M P Gretton, A Morton.
COMMANDER: M G A Knapp, V M Mezzza, R F Strange, M D Wood, J R Were, D J M Mowlam, R J Parkes, P Jackson, D A Raines, R I Money, J A Rimington, J G Hurlbatt, D J Childs, A K Tatman, L C Hopkins, P W Herington, R A Colten, R S C Kent, D J Richardson, R M Williams, C D Stanford.
Engineering
CAPTAIN: J G Ferrie, N J Barter, A F Lawton, R F James, R N M Paige, R S Blackman, P F Wason.
COMMANDER: M Dutta, J D M Osborne, P G Ritchie, J L L Prichard, R M Blake, R T Crouch, L D Rigby, D J Mattick, J R Evans, N J Hillier, M A Phelps, W T Wiseman, D P Lashbrooke, B S Morgan, A R Dent, N C F Guild, J V Wright, A R Leask, G S Beard, J Reeve.
Supply and Secretariat
CAPTAIN: M J Appleton, R C Francis-Jones, M S Shallow.
COMMANDER: B H Bartlett, C P G Abbot, J N Hart, D A Wines, D A H M Smith.
Instructor
CAPTAIN: J D Watt.
COMMANDER: J Davies, G J Fryer, R E Stainbank, P G Hadden, B R Davies.
Medical
SURGEON CAPTAIN: R C Clark.
SURGEON COMMANDER: E H M B Doyle, A R Mugridge, C J Churcher-Brown, O M Howard, P F R Tolley.
Dental
SURGEON CAPTAIN (D): J W G Pidgeon.
SURGEON COMMANDER (D): S Lambert-Humble.
Royal Marines
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: J R Blundell.
MAJOR: M J Meardon, N C B Beyts, R P Williams, A M Mason, B E A Seage.

The Army
The following promotions are announced, all effective December 31:
BRIGADIER: G C Barnett (late BW); J A J Barr (late RE); A H Carlier (late RE); C E G Carrington (late RCT); R F L Cook (late R Signals); P R Duffell (late 2 GR); M J Evans (late RTR); W A Evans (late 5 INNIS DG); R J Hayman-Joyce (late RH); F R Maynard (late R Signals); B T Pennicott (late RA); G P R Ramsby (late RA); J F Rickett (late WG); H M Rose (late Coldm Gds); J A P Russell (late R Signals); E M Westropp (late RH); M J Wilkes (late RA).
Army Legal Corps: M T Fugard.
COLONEL: M P Barneby (late 15/19H); J R A Daniel (late RRF); C V Denning (late Kings); J C M Gordon (late RA); N G S Gray (late RA); H M C Havergal (late Coldm Gds); M T O Lloyd (late RRW); J B R Peecock (late RA); J D Macdonald (late RCT); D B W Webb-Carter (late IG).
Royal Engineers (Surv): J W Williams.
Royal Army Pay Corps: G M Gadd.
Royal Pioneer Corps: H K Hickman.
Army Catering Corps: A F Barnett.
Army Legal Corps: O L Pugh.
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL.
Household Cavalry: C J Harcourt-Smith, LG.
Royal Armoured Corps: M I Keun, RTR: J R Turner, RH.
Royal Regiment of Artillery: V T M Smith: R J M C Webb: H E Welby-Everard.
Corps of Royal Engineers: C P R Bates: A J Hoon: J F Johnson: J N B Stuart: M P B G Wilson.
Royal Corps of Signals: J F Budd: S M A Lee: N C Muir: M A Payne: J F Storr: R A Wright.
INFANTRY
The Scottish Division: S J Lindsay, BW: I J A Lowis, KOSB: C G F Mitchinson MBE, RS.
The Queen's Division: C Groves, R Anglian: C N B Wellwood, RRF.
The King's Division: P A Phelan, R Irish.
The Prince of Wales's Division: D de G Bromhead, RRW: J R M Townsend, WFR.
The Light Division: A D Brown, LI: J F Deverell, LI: G F Smythe, RGJ: R D Vellacott, LI.
The Parachute Regiment: G A S Hill: D C Parker.
The Brigade of Gurkhas: W J Dawson, 7 GR: C T Newton-Dunn, 10 GR.
Army Air Corps: F J M Esson, M R Walker.
Royal Corps of Transport: C A Butterfield.
Royal Army Ordnance Corps: J F Baines.
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers: P H Kay, D E King, D H Roberts, R J Shields, T R Saar.
Royal Pioneer Corps: P D N Baird.
Army Catering Corps: D M Hathorn.

Royal Air Force
The following promotions are announced of officers serving in the Royal Air Force, the Women's Royal Air Force and the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service from January 1.
General duties branch
AIR CHIEF MARSHAL: Sir John Rogers.
AIR MARSHAL: D P Hall, Sir Michael Armitage, J B Fitzpatrick.



AIR VICE-MARSHAL: K F Sanderson, J D Spottiswood, B J Jackson.
AIR COMMODORE: J Hardstaff, A L Roberts, W H Croydon, N D McEwen, R H Wood, J A Morgan, P P W Taylor, R H Palin.
GROUP CAPTAIN: D I Scott, J N Sawyer, D C Read, A C Tolhurst, A D Turner, R Sweatman, A C R Ingoldby, N Bonnor, M G Peaker, J K Sim, G A Barnes, P M Stean, B N J Speed, C R Adams, A E Ryle, D F L Edwards, C J Sturt, R Fowler, I D Macfadyen, B A Wright.
WING COMMANDER: T R Cohu, F R Styles, R M Prothero, B B Jones, D W Gerrard, B P Nicolle, C C LeCornu, B E Durand, H W Farquhar-Smith, T J Hindmarsh, A G Cleever, P B Gardner, D L T Earl, D B Shaw, B K McLaren, M J White, J A Ward, R Northcote, J W Marshall, S N Bostock, R McKendrick, G Wensley, T Eeles, B J Poulton, S A Wrigley, D M Niven, D McM Grey, K D Filbey, C R Spink, A V B Hawkes.
SQUADRON LEADER: M Winterbottom, A J Brooks, W G Coupar, E W Brown, J Ledward, A L Vanier, N Vale, I McDonald, D W Lee, D Cheeseborough, N Matthews, A W Morgans, P B Sharman, M F D Webb, T W Jones, A M Down, A W Blackwell, D A Wheeler, E J Manhings, D K Fletcher, R Ross, J C Bagnall, P Ingoe, A S C Culbert, P J Bennett, W Gault, E A Gould, N Thatcher, M J Lakey, J M Bagnall, P Ingoe, A S C Culbert, P J Bennett, W Gault, E A Gould, N Thatcher, M J Lakey, J M B Ritchie, K R C Greaves, D D Goodman, A S Murray, C D Joyner, I F Davidson, D J C Bennett, R Collins, A J Dear, A K Desai, T V Blackwood, K G Griffin, R J Hamilton, E J Wyer, P G Kingsford, R G Connolly, A E Boxall-Hunt, J R Woods, S B Cheesman, I P Kenvyn, N J Slater, R C Wilson, C F Wrighton, T Kirkhope, C D O'Connell, A K Ferries, D Pynn, M J Pearce, F M Snaiders, R J Alan, D B Chamberlain, K Mason, A D White, A Sneddon, B A Steen, P York, W Rush, J A Daniels, M J Selby, W K D Morrow, P Hodgson, M J MacLaine, A Sawyer, S G Rodda, C J Lawrence, D A Truman, T W L Miller, D G Needham.



General Duties (ground) branch
GROUP CAPTAIN: J W Lawes.
WING COMMANDER: R E Pavey, A J Needham, G S Newman.
SQUADRON LEADER: N S Armiger, R Moore, E D Henchie, A D W Grove, B Jacques, J A Ordish, A G Parkin, W R Marnane, P T Harris, T L Hale, T Minns, N McF Spence, R S Water, J S Snowden, D MacBrayne, R Brunning, M D P Allen, J A Cobb, N P Willmot, C C Nash.
Engineer branch
AIR COMMODORE: D G Campbell.
GROUP CAPTAIN: S K Morgan, R M S Fitzgerald-Lombard, R H Kyle, D J Saunders.
WING COMMANDER: F B Cooper, B Jenkins, M I Gregory, J D Waters, L W R Parkin, A Bleathart, R J Whittingham, C J Maskell, R I Nailer, R J Holt, A G Yeates, G O Burton, P Liddel, A C Lang.
SQUADRON LEADER: H F French, G Robertson, J C Hay, P W Underhill, R E Vincent, P E Rea, J H Robinson, J Rae, B J Bailey, R A Horne, B D Harvey, T A Coan, K A Harris, J G Little, C D Turner, J W Stafford, F V Burden, C G Gilbert, G R Hulland, G E Evans, W M Gamble, K A Clarke, M Lewis, E J MacLean, B Greenwood, S P Murphy, M O Salter, P E Ashmore, M Wrigley, R C R Simpson, M W Urry, M S Sanderson-Miller, R A Burker, P A B Roberts, P J Sperring, B Hedgecock, G McL Nisbet, P Johnson, B S Thrower, J Jackson, B M Thornton, A M Verdon, A E Warnes, M J Olshaw, S R Sims, R P H Hannington, D W McCormick, S H Parker, G M Hart, J Thomson, W J Rush, P D Rawson, J Brown, C N A Brown, P J Dye, C F Field, J I Foggott, R N Raynor, R H Learner, D M H Brown, B G Benstead, W S Hooms, J I Kane, T I Scott, A R Kent.
Supply branch
AIR COMMODORE: M J Allisstone.
GROUP CAPTAIN: W S Girdwood, D F Morlock, M P Crotty.
WING COMMANDER: M J Tourle, J MacI Drysdale, C J Rowe, G F Reynolds, N A Colman, P Gibbins, A J Pye, A W J Foulkes.
SQUADRON LEADER: D B Cannon, T J Watson, J F Beadman, F M Holmes, A J Ovens, R C D Hankinson, D J Foster, S B Jones, S E Martin, R V Thompson, A C Spinks, D B Newman, J H Thompson, J N McEnery, A S McKelvie, J M Thomas, J C Garstin, R G Williams, P Follet, P M Miles, W G Dean.
Administrative branch
GROUP CAPTAIN: B E Nicol, J B M Jones, T B Sherrington.
WING COMMANDER: R J Rees, N Shorrick, G R Parker, T H Underwood, S W Richards, C A Bolton, C G Winsland, P C Butt.
SQUADRON LEADER: L Duff, I J McCulloch, A W Ward, I D Starkey, A J Little, J R Spencer, M A C Oodbrook, G I August, R A M Robson, N O Randall, M Harwood-Grayson, J W Haywood, K Spencer, J R Kirkham, L A Woods, A M Mayo, J A Conrad, P T Sanders, D StJ Salisbury, M S Meyer, M B Craggs, S W Austin-Vautier, P Darbyshire, B Granville, A Whitelock, E A Malone, P C H Hodcroft.
Security branch
AIR COMMODORE: D D Anderson.
GROUP CAPTAIN: B Ardley.
WING COMMANDER: M A Basnett, I W P McNeil, W F Floydd.
SQUADRON LEADER: R N Hammett, P A M Kennedy, P J Moralee, S C Fuller, B Lang, M A Stephens, R C Moore, P J Betts, M E Thornton, D R E Evans, M T McGinty, D J Stanley, D J Y Martin.
Medical branch
AIR COMMODORE: J Ernsting, N H Mills.
Dental branch
GROUP CAPTAIN: R J Winkworth.

THE ARTS

Cinema: **David Robinson** presents his personal honours list for 1983, and offers a little New Year diversion

Who could displace the old masters?

Best Picture of 1983: Without question, Ingmar Bergman's opulent period recreation *Fanny and Alexander*, in the full (and not a second too long) 340-minute version. With Robert Bresson's austere and uncompromising *L'Argent* as runner-up. Even if the competition had been stiffer than it was in a generally lean year, it is unlikely that anyone could have displaced these two old masters.

Best Director: Bill Forsyth, for *Local Hero* and the authority, originality and charm of his comic vision.

Best Actor: Robert De Niro in Martin Scorsese's undervalued *King of Comedy*.

Best Actress: Meryl Streep in *Sophie's Choice*.

Special Prize for Progress and Promise: to Britain. "Renaissance" is a big word; but there were enough swallows to portend a fair summer, among them Michael Darlow's *Accounts*, Richard Eyre's *The Ploughman's Lunch*, Michael Radford's *Another Time, Another Place*, Desmond Davies's *The Country Girls* and John Schlesinger's *An Englishman Abroad*.

Most Original Comedy: Woody Allen's *Zelig*.

Most Outrageous Musical: Sylvester Stallone's *Staying Alive*.

Most Promising Newcomers: Peter Reigert *(Local Hero)*, Julie Walters *(Educating Rita)*, Greta Schacchi *(Heat and Dust)*, Jennifer Beals *(Flashdance)*.

Star of the Year (any year): Lillian Gish, who wowed them at the Dominion, off-screen and on, at the re-presentation of her classic performances in *Broken Blossoms* and *The Wind*.

Birthday Girl of the Year: Estelle Winwood, 101 in January and still at work.

Best Film Festival: Tyneside, because it has a mind of its own.

Best Film Book: Virgin Books' *Film Year Book Volume Two* (£5.95) which combines fun, intelligence, affection and erudition.

Vogue of the Year: Restoring mutilated films, in the wake of *Napoleon*. It is all right so long as they stick to *A Star is Born* and even *Heaven's Gate*; but just suppose they start finding mislaid bits of *The Stud* or *Raise the Titanic*. . . .

Mistake of the Year: Remaking *Breathless*.

Turkeys of the Year: *The Hunger*; *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life*.

Worst Title: *I Dismember Mama*.

Valete: The year's obituaries included among directors the incomparable Luis Buñuel, George Cukor, Robert Aldrich and the Japanese *enfant terrible* Shuji Terayama; the stars Gloria Swanson, Dolores Del Rio, Ralph Richardson, Norma Shearer, *Carolyn Jones*, *Raymond Massey*, Pat O'Brien and the original Flash Gordon, Buster Crabbe; a great editor, William Hornbeck; and Otto Messmer, the creator, more than sixty year ago, of Felix the Cat.

* * *

To start the New Year, with no new commercial films on release, the National Film Theatre's survey of the work of Edmund Goulding has much to recommend it. Goulding is a fascinating figure in film history, though this appears to be the first time he has been recognized as an auteur with a personal retrospective tribute.

He was a Londoner, born in 1891. A brief career in the London theatre was cut short by the First World War, after which he decided to try his luck in America. On Broadway he enjoyed rapid success as a playwright, with *Dancing Mothers* and *Dodd Mead*, and in 1921 arrived in Hollywood as a writer. His career there was to last through four decades, from 1921, when he scripted Henry King's classic *Tol'able David*, to 1958 when he directed his last film, *Mardi Gras*.

Goulding's great strengths as a director were a highly literate understanding of the text and great skill with actors but particularly actresses. His leading ladies, all of whom seemed to excel under his direction, included Greta Garbo, Norma Shearer, Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Mary Astor, Constance Bennett, Joan Blondell, Ginger Rogers and Marilyn Monroe. A large part of his prolific Thirties output was melodrama, of the type in which fatal, lingering but never indecorous illnesses figure frequently. Goulding nevertheless often brought distinction to subjects like *The Flame Within*, *Dark Victory* and *The Old Maid*, in which Bette Davis plays one of her best pre-war roles.

In preference to the familiar heavyweights like *Grand Hotel* and the Oscar-winning *The Razor's Edge*, it is worth seeking out rarer treasures among the Goulding films, like the silent *Love*, with Garbo in the best of all adaptations of *Anna Karenina*; or *Blondie of the Follies*, with Marion Davies, whose gifts as a comedienne were too often obscured by her celebrity as Randolph Hearst's faithful mistress.

Goulding was a man of many and surprising parts. As a song-writer he was responsible for "Love Your Magic Spell is Everywhere" as well as the title-song of his own 1956 *Teenage Rebel*.

* * *

To pass a few minutes of the New Year weekend, here is a short movie quiz, with questions ranging from simple to tricky:

1: In 1952 Marion Morrison and Maureen FitzSimmons starred in a film made in Ireland by Sean Aloysius O'Feeney. What was its title?

2 (picture A): Whose hand holds the camera? In what film? But whose are the legs reflected in the lens?

3: What film was advertised as "The Tragedy of a Man Who Couldn't Make Up His Mind"?

4: What do these gentlemen have in common: Spencer Tracy, Fritz Kortner, Cary Grant, Gary Copper, David Bowie, John Wayne, Robert Donat?

5: Which film (a) provided the national song of America's New Deal era?; (b) allegedly ruined the trade in men's undervests?

6: In what films were these musical numbers performed: "Today I Feel So Happy"; "Beyond the Blue Horizon"; "Isn't It Romantic?"; "There's No Business Like Show Business"; "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"; "Dancing Cheek to Cheek"?

7: What do these ladies have in common: Rita Hayworth, Vivianne Romance, Edna Purviance, Raquel Meller, Geraldine Farrar, Theda Bara, Pola Negri?

8 (pictures B and C): Find the lady. Who are these two players, seen in uncharacteristic costumes?

[Answers with next week's film review.]

Problem pictures: A (left), B, C

Television

Eloquent evocation

The second part of **Land of the Lakes** (Channel 4) – otherwise known as the Land of the Orange Rucksacks – concentrated upon the village of Troutbeck; this is Melvyn Bragg's labour of love, a pleasant evocation of the Cumbrian landscape, not the least significant aspect of which is the visible sense in which it remains in contact with the recognizable and even the remote past. The Brigantes have vanished, of course, but the contemporary inhabitants still observe "immemorial" customs and might be rather dangerous. They were not altogether admiring of the "holiday homes" which spring up by the Lakes, for example, and no doubt we can expect to see these weekend Cumbrians sacrificed in front of Wordsworth's cottage; it was an interesting programme, principally because the natives still spoke engagingly and eloquently about their own past.

This was also the informing principle of **Pattern of Roses** (Channel 4): a teenager convalescing in the country becomes possessed by images from the early part of the century. This kind of story exerts its own power, and it was tolerably well acted – although sometimes "atmospheric" music tended to drown the performances. There were some nice touches, however – a modern clergyman who wanted his daughter to become a probation officer, and the visonary teenager himself who seemed destined for a career in advertising until the past claimed him. It was in part melodramatic (it might have been better as a "mystery" series at an earlier hour, and for children), but by no means wholly so.

The concluding part of **The World of Stanley Holloway** (BBC 1) was concerned with his last years, when he left the stage and worked principally on the screen – old songs like "Brown Boots" and "London's Pride" gave way to *My Fair Lady* and various appearances on American television shows, although only a purblind sentimenalist would regret the transition from music hall to the *Dean Martin Show*. They have more in common, perhaps, than we care to think.

Mr Holloway's great skill was in embodying the "lovable Cockney", and so sturdy a role can survive practically anything. It was certainly enough for him, although his own personality remained curiously absent from last night's programme. He was described as "pleasant" and "agreeable" although nobody, not even his sons, seemed able to pierce beneath his carapace of benign amiability. He simply possessed the "desire to perform", and would no doubt have been quite satisfied with this show-business documentary, which was exhaustive but somewhat conventional in its approach and in its emphases.

Peter Ackroyd

Dance

Cinderella
Covent Garden

The Sleeping Beauty
Channel 4

David Wall seems to have solved the problem of how to make the Prince in Cinderella look something more than a lay figure dancing attendance on the heroine. What he does is to treat every moment as if he really had a role to play: bending forward eagerly, for instance, to catch the least word from the beautiful stranger's lips. As this is a ballet, she does not actually utter any words, but the point is made.

Wall also dances more dashingly than he has done in any other ballet this season, so his part came to life at Tuesday's performance. Unfortunately, although Jennifer Penney looks plausibly enough a fairy-tale princess, some of the sparkle has gone out of her dancing, probably because her performances are so few and far between nowadays. David Peden, the latest in a series of new Jesters (how that court gets through its servants!), will make more effect if he brings to his main scenes some of the liveliness he showed when half hidden at the back.

Since one has to comment from time to time that some of the Royal Ballet's productions are less well directed and danced than in the past, it is only fair to say that the Kirov Ballet has a similar problem with its Sleeping Beauty, judging by Monday's broadcast on Channel 4.

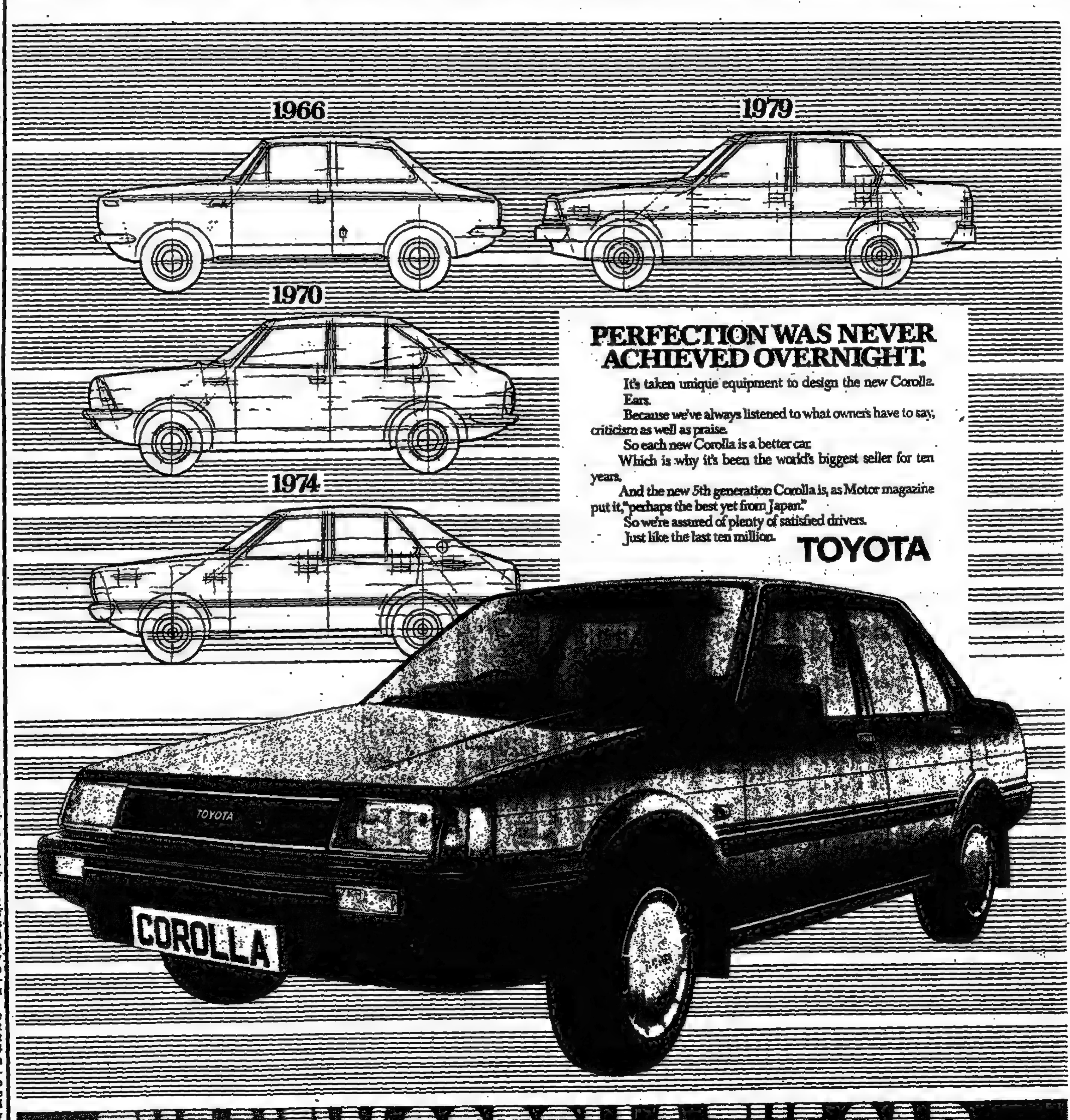
On the other hand, the blame for announcing the whole ballet and then showing only part of it must fall squarely on Channel 4 itself. The specious introduction about a "specially edited version" was simply an attempt to wriggle out of the fact that the programmers had bungled and allowed insufficient time. They would not dare that with a play or opera; why should they get away with it for ballet?

Consequently, part of the story and many of the best dances were not shown. In what remained, the veteran ballerina Irina Kolpakova showed that she is still, at 50, a better and younger-looking Aurora than most, even if some of us remember her better still in the past. Sergei Berezhnoi makes a presentable but lightweight Prince Désiré.

For the real Kirov style, the trio of Jewel Fairies at the wedding (Olga Iskanderova, Natalia Spitsina and Natalia Apodyakos) came off best among the supporting cast; no doubt Leningrad, like London, has its young hopefuls to look forward to.

John Percival





MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Account ends on dull note

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings begin, Today. Dealings end, Jan 13. Contango Day, Jan 16. Settlement Day, Jan 23.

The chill wind of higher US interest rates sent a shudder of apprehension through the London stock market yesterday as the long three week Christmas account ended on a dull note.

The overnight rise in the Fed rate from 9 per cent to 9⅝ per cent took many dealers by surprise and prompted a bout of nervous profit taking which was exaggerated by the thin conditions following the seasonal break. The FT Index, which has enjoyed a record breaking run this account, closed 3.1 down at 772.5.

Gilts were in a subdued mood as the Bank of England took the opportunity to release a total of £600m of Government stock consisting of £300m of Treasury Index-Linked 2 per cent 1990, £100m of Treasury 3 per cent 1986 and £200m of Treasury 3 per cent 1987.

Dealers said the additional low coupon stock was aimed at mopping up the growing tide of cash from overseas roll-up funds and had made little impact on sentiment.

In longs prices closed up to 25p lower mainly on lack of interest as investors continued to enjoy the extended break. On the foreign exchange the pound rallied 1.35 cents to $1.4485.

Mr David Wickins, chairman of British Car Auctions, is pressing ahead with plans to inject the group's US auction business into Sandgate Corp, the listed New Jersey Ford dealer. BCA bought a 20 per cent stake in Sandgate three months ago and details of the deal are now expected in the New Year. Shares of BCA slipped 1p to 239p yesterday.

Leading equities were mostly lower, although some managed to close above their worst levels helped by sporadic bursts of new time support. **Distillers** added 2p to 240p still excited by the prospect of a mystery buyer, but reports of fierce competition among the big drug manufacturers prompted falls in **Beecham** 5p to 308p, **Fisons** 5p to 737p and **Glaxo** 7p to 710p.

The atrocious weather conditions in the US are expected to result in large insurance claims for some of our bigger insurance composites with interests there. Prices were above their worst at the close, but still showed losses on the day.

Commercial Union fell 5p to 182p after its French acquisition, while **General Accident** lost 4p to 456p, **Guardian Royal** 3p to 518p, **Minster Assets** 3p to 105p, **Phoenix Assurance** 12p to 376p, **Royal Insurance** 9p to 493p and **Sun Alliance** 10p to £14.27.

But the cold weather has been good news for oil shares hoping for a pick up in demand and the improvement in prices on the oil spot market. **BP** added 6p at 406p, **Britoil** 3p at 198p, **Clyde Petroleum** 3p to 116p, **London & Scottish Marine Oil** 14p at 291p, **Ultramar** 2p at 614p and **Shell** 5p at 566p. The Irish oil producers failed to join in the revival with **Aran Energy** losing 2p to 70p, **Atlantic Resources** 25p to 640p, and **Bula Resources** 2p to 29p. Only **Eglington** put up any fight closing unchanged at 290p, after 280p.

Do not be fooled by the recent support for Electronic Rentals where Philips has a large stake and BET is tipped as a likely bidder. Broker Phillips & Drew in its latest survey of the TV and video sector says a prospective P/E of 24 gearing of around 41 per cent means the shares are over rated. With only a marginal increase in pretax profits to £12.5m this year expected P & D expects the underperformance to continue. The shares were unchanged at 51p yesterday.

It has certainly been a memorable account for **House of Fraser**. Yesterday the shares slipped 2p to 248p, but are still 22p up on the account helped by renewed speculative support. The rest of the stores sector has shrugged off the disappointment of the low level of attendances for the New Year sales following the recent Harrods bomb outrage and the threat of a bombing campaign by terrorists in London's West End.

Debenhams wiped out an earlier fall to close unchanged at 156p and **MFI** added 5p at 161p. **Ratners** 3p at 46p and **Waring & Gillows** 3p at 95p. On the takeover front **Electronic Machine** slipped 5p to 67p on profit taking after the board's statement earlier in the week that it knew of no reason for the present strength of the share price.

Renewed speculative attention was again focused on **Highgate & Job**, 13p up at 190p, as the battle for control of the company continued.

RECENT ISSUES

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THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why Lonrho declined to sponsor $1m Derby

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, as even his bitterest adversaries admit, is a man of extraordinary charm. It is, therefore, all the more regrettable that he so often communicates through lawyers, especially one who abruptly ends a conversation by putting down the telephone. Otherwise, in their written response to my column of December 23 ("Fraser expects Lonrho to attempt the obvious"), Mr Rowland and a firm of solicitors called Cameron Markby could not have been more helpful.

In the first place "our clients' (Lonrho) position in regard to Mr John Griffiths' report is that they are content to await the outcome of his enquiries". This will be welcome news for the majority of House of Fraser directors who feared that Lonrho, the enemy without the gates, might seek an extraordinary meeting to oust Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, and two other directors, Mr Ernest Sharp and Mr George Willoughby, before Mr Griffiths reports to the Department of Trade and Industry the results of his investigation into the House of Fraser share register. It also confirms my view that Mr Rowland would not act in this way.

Mr Rowland, through his solicitors, has also been good enough to clear up another matter of huge concern to the racing public, namely Lonrho's willingness to sponsor the Epsom Derby. I wrote here last week that Lonrho's offer to sponsor the greatest race in the Flat racing calendar for £600,000 had been refused "because of a certain condition" Mr Rowland had laid down.

The condition "to which", according to Cameron Markby, "you refer was that Lonrho's sponsorship should be unanimously accepted by United Racecourses Limited (who were in fact responsible, not the Jockey Club). In the event a decision on sponsorship was deferred until 1985, apparently for lack of time within which to consider the matter fully. But there was no suggestion of any objection to our clients as potential sponsors; and they have recently received a letter inviting them to consider sponsorship in 1985. . . . They declined the invitation".

A copy of the letter, dated December 6, from Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of United Racecourses, was sent to me. Addressed to Lord Duncan-Sandys, it asks whether Lonhro "would be interested in entering discussions with United Racecourses Limited with a view to sponsorship of the Derby Stakes at Epsom in 1985, 86 and 87, and possibly for a further two years. We are looking for a contribution equivalent to $1m for each year".

The UR board's aim is "to establish a shortlist of companies who may be interested in this uniquely prestigious marketing opportunity, and then to negotiate a detailed contract to fulfil mutual objectives".

That, I trust, goes a long way to clearing up the Derby point. There remains the vital matter of the public's response to "Seasons Greetings from Lonrho" in the windows of the old Bunny Club in Park Lane, premises now owned by Lonrho. I reported that the sign had caused "a certain furore". Lonrho's solicitors say the company" has been congratulated, in writing and otherwise, on the way in which the sign had brightened up the premises."

I am pleased to hear it: what offends some people usually delights others. But it is bad news about the Derby. Copetition among would-be sponsors is generally a good thing.

Travel guide to an investor's paradise

In London shares have surged impressively to new peaks, yet, the sophisticated and alert investor could have had an even more lucrative run in some of the world's smaller stock markets. That at least is a theory supported by the latest statistical exercise by stockbrokers Wood, Mackenzie. Their international market survey shows that, up to December 23 certainly, Mexico, famed for oil, tequila and sovereign debt, was the place to be. After last year's traumatic experience, when Mexico teetered on the verge of bankruptcy and both peso and stock market collapsed, resurgence has been dramatic. The fledgling Mexican stock market outperformed the rest with a staggering rise of 285.74 per cent.

Two other small markets – Norway (135.82 per cent) and Denmark (107.25 per cent) – also achieved three figure rises; other tiddlers to perform in style include Sweden, Ireland, Singapore and the Netherlands. In most of them a few stocks, excited by the increasing international awareness of US investors, account for much of the upswing. Australia, under a new Labour Government, also did well.

Overall the 21 stock markets in the Wood, Mackenzie survey advanced 36.88 per cent. Our own market, despite its undoubted strength, gained only 28.58 per cent. Wall Street, the most important stock market in anybody's language – accounting for no less than 56.4 per cent of the world index – scored 36.67 per cent.

The next biggest market, Japan, is 16.7 per cent of the index. It advanced 37.88 per cent. Britain (7.4 per cent) is the third largest; followed by Canada (4.5 per cent) and Germany (3.1 per cent). To put the rest into perspective, Norway accounts for a mere 0.2 per cent.

The sophicticated investor, Wood, Mackenzie calculates would have been highly activ in the US in the first half of the year and then switched his attention to Japan which enjoyed a late run. The rampant US dollar could however have created a few minor problems. In dollar terms Hongkong suffered a 2.1 per cent setback: in sterling sums it was up 10.5 per cent. Italy and Austria also fell in dollar terms.

In 1982, helped by a surge of buying late in the year, world markets recorded a gain of 31.7 per cent. In 1981 they were in retreat. What of 1984? the Wood, Mackenzie team is prepared to stick out its collective neck, suggesting a gain between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. Japan, of the five leaders, will be the best performer, helped by favourable currency movements. Britain will be positive, Germany little changed and the US and Canada possibly lower. The brokers think that the more exciting action will occur in the first half of the year. Sell in May . . . and go away.

Sterling touches $1.45 on US economic forecasts

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The pound bobbed above $1.45 yesterday for the first time in three weeks, given a gentle push from higher spot oil prices, as the dollar weakened on fading expectations of a rise in American interest rates.

Sterling closed in London at $1.4485, which was 1.35 cents up on the day. Small gains against Continental currencies and the yen boosted its trade-weighted index by 0.3 to 82.8 per cent of its 1975 level.

The Bank of England took advantage of the shifting sentiment on interest rates to maintain the momentum of the Government's funding programme by issuing £600m of government stock. Dealings will start on Tuesday for traditional tranches of two low-coupon conventional stocks, designed to appeal to high taxpayers.

The £100m of 3 per cent Treasury 1986 and £200m of 3 per cent Treasury 1987 are to replace exhausted short-dated low coupon stocks.

In addition, £300m of 2 per cent index-linked Treasury 1990 will be offered for tender next Thursday for dealing the following day.

On very quiet trading, government stocks eased slightly, with long-dated gilts down about £0.25 from Wednesday.

Foreign exchange markets also saw little business, with most operators concerned simply to square their books at the end of the year.

But there are signs that when trading starts in earnest after the New Year the dollar may be due for a fall. The latest figures on economic growth, which suggest that the US recovery is slowing, coupled with numerous forecasts from, among others, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, predicting further deceleration during the coming year, have dampened fears that the Federal Reserve Board will move to tighten credit policy to keep the lid on inflation.

These hopes were given a further boost yesterday by the announcement of a fall in the US leading indicators which signal the course of economic recovery some months ahead.

The dollar fell 1.50 pfennigs to DM2.7280 as Euro-dollar deposit rates eased.

Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroking firm, is predicting growth of 2 per cent next year after 2.8 per cent this year, lower than the Treasury's 3 per cent for 1984

Lower inflation will increase real incomes, reduce savings further and permit lower interest rates, the firm says.

Mr Philip Wilkinson, chief executive of National Westminster Bank, said yesterday that he was reasonably confident the upturn in activity would continue in 1984 with only modest inflation, and predicted lower interest rates next year. The Item club of economists, which uses the Treasury's model of the economy, expects growth next year to be close to the Chancellor's prediction of 3 per cent.

Australian record

Australian shares reached a record yesterday. The main market index rose by 4.2 points to 769.9 points, spurred on by the industrial index which for the first time passed the 1,000 points mark.

No particular section was strong, but a number of individual shares – such as Amatil, among food and drinks and TNT on the transport pitch – pushed ahead.

Most of the US dollar inflow, which has been such a feature of Australian markets this year, was concentrated in oil and gas shares.

The Tintaburra No.1 well, which is being drilled in the south west corner of Queensland by a consortium, attracted interest. Hartogen, the consortium leader, was firm and Weeks Australia, which has an interest, gained ground.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 772.5 down 3.1
FT Gilts: 83.15 down 0.22
FT All Share: 468.89 down 1.12
Bargains: 14,487
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 96.12 up 0.2
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1,266.06 up 2.85
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index Closed
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 877.15 up 3.0
Amsterdam: 161.6 up 0.6
Sydney: AO Index 769.9 up 4.6
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1041.7 down 2.3
Brussels: General Index 136.77 unchanged
Paris: CAC Index 156.5 up 1.0
Zurich: SKA General 316.90 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
$1.4485 up 1.35cents
Index 82.8 up 0.3
DM 3.9550 up 0.0050
FrF 12.09 up 0.01
Yen 336.50 up 1.50
Dollar
Index 129.5 down 0.6
DM 2.7280 down 0.0150
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1.4475
Dollar DM 2.7285
INTERNATIONAL
ECU£0.570561
SDR£0.726841

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $379.00 pm $384.40
close $381.75-382.50 (£263.75-264.25)
New York (close): $382.25
Krugerrand* (per coin): $393.50-395 (£272-273)
Sovereigns* (new): $89.50-90.50 (£61.75-62.50)
*Excludes VAT

Consortium buys Acrow subsidiary

By Jeremy Warner

A Manchester manufacturer of pressure vessels for the oil industry, whose closure was announced in September, is being brought back from the dead by a consortium of businessmen led by Mr Nat Puri, an Indian-born entrepreneur.

Acrow, the troubled heavy engineering group, closed the consistently loss-making Adamson and Hatchett, which once employed nearly 400 people, part of its survival strategy. The company's assets were put up for sale in the process.

Mr Puri quickly put together a consortium, consisting of his own Nottingham group of companies, Melton Medes, a business associate and a merchant bank. They consortium is believed to be paying between £1m and £1.5m for the company and hopes eventually to re-employ more than 100 people.

Adamson, whose main customers are oil companies in Britain, Norway and the Middle East, lost £1m in 1983 and £1.2m the year before.

But Mr Puri said: "It is basically a good business and I think we can do a lot better with it than Acrow did. We will certainly not be making losses."

The current senior management at Adamson and Hatchett, headed by the managing director, Mr Stanley Wilce, will be cut in with a financial participation in the future of the business.

Mr Puri, aged 44, came to Britain from India 17 years ago and has spent most of his time working for S. G. Skerritt, a Midlands firm of building contractors.

He resigned on a matter of principle in 1975 but was able to return in triumph at the beginning of this year when he added Skerritt to his burgeoning business empire. Further companies will be added to the group soon, Mr Puri said.

The book loss Acrow is taking by selling off Adamson was taken into account in recent half-year figures which showed losses of nearly £4m. Acrow intends to dispatch a circular to shareholders on the sale

Norway follows UK in pegging oil price

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's pre-Christmas decision to leave North Sea oil prices unchanged in the face of customer pressure for a cut has been vindicated by the surge on the world oil spot market and by Norway's decision to announce next Monday that it is leaving its prices unchanged.

North sea oil is now trading on the spot market at $29.50 a barrel, still 50 cents below its official price but 60 cents up on last Friday's closing price.

The hardening of prices – largely due to increased demand from the United States where heating oil deliveries are accelerating because of the severe winter – will also help the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to maintain its agreement on prices and production.

The British National Oil Corporation which trades North Sea oil on the world markets on behalf of the Government took its decision to hold its prices steady four days before Christmas. It has been criticized by US companies operating in the North Sea who do not have access to refineries and have to sell the crude on the open market.

In turn those companies in the North Sea, Shell, Esso and BP, who can convert crude for the product market in Europe, pressed for prices to be held.

North Sea production peaked in November at 2.5 million barrels a day from the British sector and 770,000 barrels a day from the Norwegian sector. A year ago the figures were 2.1 million for Britain and 500,000 for Norway. Opec production has now moved to between 18.3 million and 18.9 million barrels a day.

Señor Berti: Venezuela losing foreign earnings

At least one Opec member, Venezuela, is to call for an early meeting to review the organization's quota agreement which it endorsed in Geneva four weeks ago.

Venezuela argues that while it has stuck firmly to its agreed quota its export earnings from oil have fallen while its domestic market for oil has become more buoyant. Venezuela hopes to persuade Opec to change the basis for quotas from "output" to "exports".

Señor Calderon Berti, the former Venezuelan oil minister who now runs the state-owned oil company, said yesterday that his country had suffered a reduction of $1.9bn (£1.328bn) in foreign earnings by strictly adhering to the Opec price and quota agreement.

He said that 1983 had been a difficult year for the Veneznelan oil industry and 1984 "will be more of the same."

Commercial Union in French deal

By Andrew Cornelius

Commercial Union Assurance, one of Britian's largest composite insurers, ysterday announced a big expansion of its activities in France. It is taking over, in a £19.4m deal, L'Epargne de France, a French life and savings company.

The news helped boost the Commercial Union share price by 5p to 187p.

The company is still waiting for formal approval for the deal fom the French regulatory authorities, but hopes to conclude the acquisition before May 31.

L'Apargne, which is based in Paris, made pretax profits of £2.8m last year on premium income of £25m.

The takeover will more than double Commercial Union's business in France. The group's existing activities are mainly in the general insurance field and produced a premium income of about £15m last year.

Mr Cecil Harris, chief excutive of Commercial Union, said that the acquisition would enable the group to provide a full range of life and non-life products in France.

Commercial Union plans to expand its French operations and particularly the L'Epargne life business, which already employs 60 sales agents and 100 head office staff. But further expasion will be delayed until approval of the takeover is agreed by the French authorities.

Commercial Union believes that the expansion in France was necessary to maintain a presence in one of Europe's largest insurance markets.

Radio Clyde goes for USM debut

By Jonathan Clare

Radio Clyde, Glasgow's award-winning commercial radio station, is to receive a listing on the Unlisted Securities Market in about six weeks which will probably value the company at more than £3m.

The station, which claims more listeners for some programmes in its franchise area than the BBC and Radio Luxembourg combined, will be the first company brought to the market by First Northern, the Edinburgh corporate finance house.

Only 5 per cent of the voting shares will be placed. The top 12 of the 75 shareholders are expected to chip in to make the shares available.

Radio Clyde is not obtaining a quotation to raise capital – it has just raised £750,000 with a rights issue.

Big shareholders include Scottish Television, Clydesdale Bank and Scottish Express Newspapers.

Last year profits increased from £76,000 to £493,000, helped by a big improvement at the Clyde Electronics subsidiary.

Hong Kong Land to sell £18m office

By Our Financial Staff

Hong Kong Land, the colony's largest property company, has announced another big sale of assets to help reduce its heavy debt burden.

It is selling Macquarie House, an office building with 105,000 square feet of space at Sydney, Australia, for A$30m (£18.8m) to a fund run by Westpac Banking Corporation.

Mr Davis said yesterday the latest sale was at an opportune time It is the company's second large property disposal since it announced a surprise six-month loss of £10m in September and appointed Mr David Davis as chief operating officer.

Mr Daivs said yesterday the latest sale was at an opportune time for Hong Kong Land. But he stressed there was no question of selling further properties in Australia such as Franklin Stores in Sydney, or another office building.

The company announced this month that it had arranged a seven-year HK$2.5 billion (£220m) standby credit facility from a group of banks led by the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The facility was secured on the company's big office development now under construction in the colony, Exchange Square.

Two months ago, Hong Kong Land sold an office building in Honolulu, Hawaii, for US$59.6m (£41m) and said more sales would follow.

Hong Kong Land ran into difficulties when uncertainty about the colony's future caused the Hongkong dollar to collapse, which in turn sent the cost of servicing the group's substantial floating rate borrowing soaring.

Meanwhile, the disposal of the assets of another Hongkong property group, the now defunct Carrian, continues. The liquidator has sold the Singapore insurance business of the Carrian subsidiary, China Underwriters Life and General Insurance, to a company jointly owned by the Singapore government and Chubb Corporation of the US.

A more favourable offer had been received from Sentry Assurance International, which has already acquired much of the China Underwriters' business. But it had to be turned down because the Singapore government would not license the company to undertake insurance business.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Eagle Star share plan supported

Shareholders of Eagle Star, the subject of competing takeover bids from Allianze Versicherungs and BAT Industries, yesterday agreed a scheme to approve a reorganization of Eagle's capital in the event of a takeover.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle, said the reorganization was necessary to reduce the costs of any successful takeover offer

He declined to comment on the likely outcome of the takerover bid before today's 4.30pm deadline for final bidding

● A multi-million-pound electronics plant, which will create 250 jobs in 18 months and eventually lead to nearly 450 jobs, is to be built on a 16-acre site at Irvine in Ayrshire. The announcement follows discussions between SCI Systems, of Alabama, and the Scottish jobs creation bureau.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month interbank 9$\frac{7}{16}$-9$\frac{5}{16}$
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9$\frac{13}{16}$-9$\frac{15}{16}$
3 month DM 6$\frac{1}{16}$-5$\frac{15}{16}$
3 month Fr F13½-13¼
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 10⅝
Treasury long bond 101$\frac{13}{32}$–101$\frac{17}{32}$
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

WALL STREET

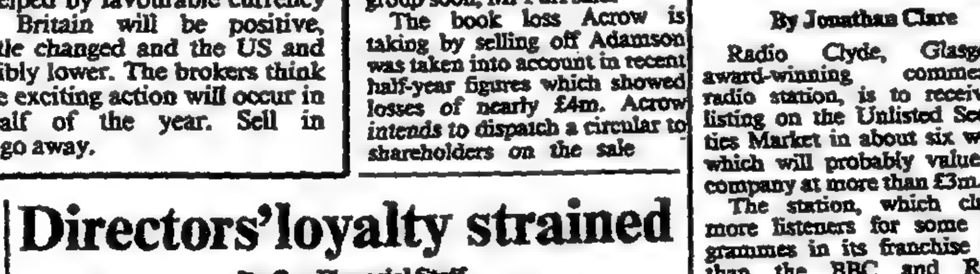
Shares hold on to gains

New Yorks (AP – Dow Jones). – Share prices were maintaining small gains in moderate trading yesterday with the Dow Jones Industrial Average 2.85 points up at 1266.06.

The Transportation Index was just below a three-point advance, while the utilities index had fallen by nearly a point.

Advances were about 7-to-6 ahead of declines and volume was more than 40 million shares.

Texas Utilities was down 2 1-2 to 23 1-8, Public Service of Indiana, off 1-4, at 11 3-8 and Long Island Lighting Co., down 1-4 to 10.



Directors' loyalty strained

By Our Financial Staff

The Government was urged yesterday by one of its most ardent supporters, the Institute of Directors, to keep its election promises over taxation and public spending.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, director-general of the institute, said in a New Year message in The Director magazine: "Our loyalty is becoming strained. Industry has kept its side of the bargain during the difficult years of 1980-83. It is time he Government did the same."

Mr Goldsmith, whose organization has backed Mrs Thatcher more than the Confederation of British Industry and has not questioned the Government's view that the recovery from recession might falter, added: "Only six months since the election, many bussinessmen must find themselves wondering: has the Government already forgotten the most crucial of its election promises or just chosen to ignore them?"

He added: "It would be gravely disappointing if all the real progress that industry and commerce has made over the last four years to rationalize staff numbers, eliminate inefficiency and improve productivity were to be thrown away because of the Government's inability to cut spending

"The rhetoric of their manifesto has not yet been translated into bold, decisive action."

He claimed that, when higher national insurance is taken into account, taxation has actually increased.

Further austerity measures on the way

Nigerian budget deficit 'doubled'

By John Lawless

Nigeria's economy is in a critical state, President Shehu Shagari said yesterday, with the 1983 budget deficit likely to be almost twice official predictions.

With the deficit at 6.2 billion naira (£5.6 billion) – and with next year's estimated government revenues of 6.63 billion naira expected to be outstripped by recurrent and capital expenditure by 3.2 billion naira – the country is faced with a further drastic round of austerity measures.

The impact of these measures on British suppliers, which have traditionally held almost a fifth of the import market, will be considerable. Nigeria was a booming market for Britain in 1981, before the oil slump, with sales worth £1.5 billion.

This year, British exports will be half that level, with a further contraction inevitable in 1984. It is expected that the 10 billion naira import bill will be cut to 7 billion.

The cut in Nigeria's oil production and the fall in crude prices have resulted in "a colossal loss of revenue which has necessitated a thorough appraisal of plans for the country's economic development", according to the President when he presented the National Assembly with what he called a "re-dedication budget".

The austerity measures will clearly have to have a much swifter impact than has been achieved by other measures this year – principally aimed at cutting imports – if Nigeria is to meet the conditions of the International Monetary Fund for a three-year $2 billion loan.

Nigerians have got used to good living and have resorted to massive smuggling to avoid import bans on 230 items.



Shagari: colossal loss of revenue

President Shagari, however, stressed yesterday that if Nigeria is to get fresh money from both the IMF and a "structural adjustment loan" from the World Bank, there would have to be a definite reduction in purchases from abroad and a curtailment of foreign exchange outflows.

Full details of the $13 billlion budget will be released next week.

● Syndicated international bank lending dropped by nearly a fifth in 1983 as banks tried to contain their exposure to risk in the wake of the global debt crisis, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said yesterday.

Gross new borrowing through bond issues and syndication of international medium term credits totalled $137.9 billion (£95.7 billion) in 1983, down 18.5 per cent from $169.3 billion in 1982.

The biggest fall was in lending to non-oil developing countries. Their total borrowing fell from $34.3 billion in 1982 to $25.5 billion in 1983, more than half of which was longer-term loans as part of debt rescheduling agreement.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

Decline in tin's fortunes is likely to continue

DATASTREAM

TIN PRICE
LME high grade
Three months

£/tonne 9200 9000 8800 8600 8400 8200 8000 7800 7600 7400

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Tin must have disappointed its proponents this year. It might reasonably have been expected 12 months ago tha a combination of effective price support from the International Tin Agreement and rapid economy growth, particularly in the US, in the second half of this year would have reversed the decline in tin's fortunes. But it was not so, nor does it appear likely to be so.

The chart shows the impact at the beginning of the year of the ITA's export restrictions. But as the enthusiasm evaporated the price settled down to trade in a narrow range of about £8,600 a tonne for the high grade contract, which normally commands a premium of about £100 over the standard contract.

The ITA buffer stock manager had clearly placed a floor beneath the price, but the chances of a strong rally were small.

Recent weeks, however, have seen a noticable fall in the London price. There are two reasons. One is a change of tactics by the buffer stock manager who has been concentrating on Kuala Lumpur where he is obliged by the ITA to keep the price above M$29.15 a kilogramme.

The Kuala Lumpur floor price, where tin rests at the moment, is therefore equal to about £8,300 a tonne in London for the standard contract. After allowing for arbitrage costs of £200, the prevailing London price is less than the Kuala Lumpur equivalent.

This apparent decision by the buffer stock manager to allow London to fend for itself has undoubtedly deterred speculators. The high grade premium has tumbled from £200 to £10. But they have also been disenchanted by the deteriorating fundamental position.

The efficacy of export quotas has been undermined by smuggling. The accumulated stocks of more than 100,000 tonnes must influence the price,

These factors could be treated more lightly, however, were it not for the gloomy demand prospect.

Dollonds

The arrival of two accountants at loss-making Dollands Photographic Holdings has created the revamp atmosphere the stock market iinds so intriguing – particularly at a time when shares are riding high.

Messrs. Norman Fetterman and Anthony Ward have already had an impact on Dollands and its shares. The company has now withdrawn completely from photographic shops – the last three closed on Christmas Eve – and has ventured into such diverse fields as special television effects and estate agents.

The shares have responded in dramatic fashion, rising this year from 26p to 340p. Yesterday they were unchanged at £320p. Mr Fetterman and Mr Ward are sitting pretty. They paid 37½p (£174,000) for their 54 per cent stake which is now worth some £1.5m.

Yesterday cane the first visible trading sign of their stewardship In the half year to end July, Dollonds suffered a £143,374 loss. For the full year there will also be a loss, although possibly some improvement on the interim figures. Redundancy costs are a rogue element in the full year figures, b ut lthe proceeds from shop sales should be a sweetener.

The television operation, which will cost about £1m in three instalments, should help transform next year's results. And the estate agency interest – which should grow to 13 or so branches in 1984, offers potentially rich rewards.

Dollonds is also moving into financial services but initially, at any rate, this will be related to the housing market. With its exotic share rating Dollonds is unlikely to resist the temptation to buy more businesses.

Private health group 'ready to expand'

Lord Constantine, chairman of the London Private Health Group, reported yesterday in his interim statement that the board is more than ever convinced that the group's investment in the Garden Hospital at Hendon, North London, has given it a solid basis for expansion.

This had been achieved at the expense of short-term profit considerations, but would protect LPHG's longer term future. The Garden Hospital was making a positve contribution to the group's progress and the outlook was encouraging, Lord Constantine said.

The board, with Mathercourt Securities,had been examining schemes to enable external funds to be introduced to several new projects, including long-term nursing.

Lord Constantine said he hoped to give details soon, particularly about a 42-bed hospital project at Cambridge.

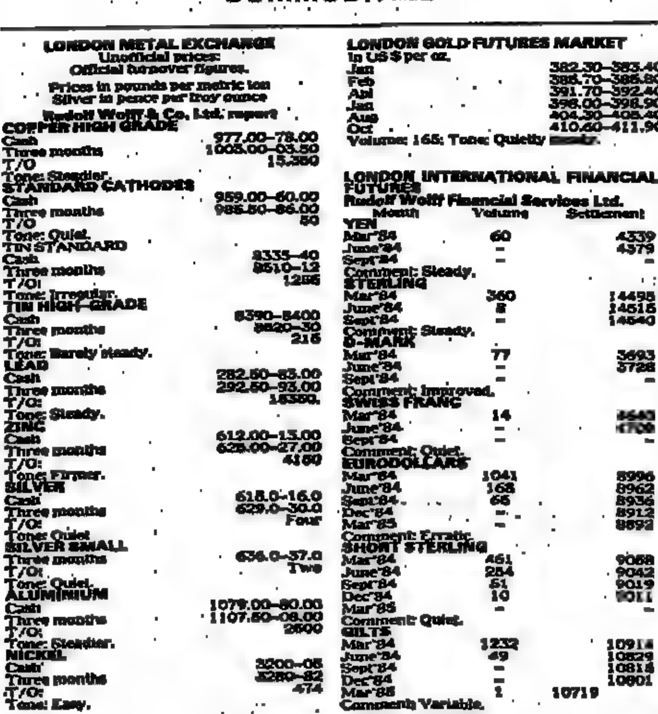
Given the cost of each fresh project, LPHG's involvement was more likely to be on a management basis for which it was equipped and which it was already performing for the Swindon private hospital.

WALL STREET



[illegible]

COMMODITIES



LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET
LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES

[illegible]

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

New Wessex fund launched

● Granville & Co, one of the biggest managers in the venture capital sector, is launching an additional business expansion fund intended primarily to benefit West Country companies, Derek Harris writes.

The idea is also to encourage investment from the Wessex area covering Berkshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Avon, Somerset and Devon. Maximum for subscriptions is £750,000.

The Wessex Business Expansion Fund is effectively being added on to the £1.5m Granville Business Expansion Fund launched in October, says Tom Sooke, a director of Granville. "We would expect to invest individual amounts of upwards of £100,000 across the two funds, and, £500,000 is generated by the Wessex fund there could be seven to ten investments in companies across the funds with three or four of the companies in the Wessex area," he said.

Companies with a track record on profits are Granville's main target but Sooke says investment in start-up situations is not being excluded. Up to 15 per cent of the Wessex fund may go to start-ups, says Sooke. A majority of the directors on the Wessex fund board will be from that geographical area ensuring a strong regional flavour. So far one of the several investment prospects identified by Granville is related to Wessex.

The Wessex fund will close next January and investments will be made by April 5

With the Wessex fund there will be a management fee of 6 per cent of cash advanced plus VAT. There will be warrants for an option on unissued shares with Granville looking to stakes of five to seven per cent

Contact Clive Basche, Robertson Clair & Co, Cross Keys House, 22 Queen Street, Salisbury (telephone 0722 25147) or Granville & Co, 27 28 Lovat Lane, EC3R 8TB (telephone 01-621 1212).



"You want to know why such a low proportion of small businesses grow? Come on, I'll introduce you to my bank manager!"

● New Work Trust, the enterprise agency based at Kingswood, Bristol, is due to have a new group of workshops completed by the end of January at Station Road, Kingswood. It will add another 80 workshops to the 60 the Trust is already operating at nearby Avondale.

All-in-costs, including rates and management and maintenance charges, range from £15 to £200 a week according to size. This is slightly under open market commercial rates but there is also more flexibility than in the open market where leases of three to five years are common. Workshops at Station Road will be on a one-month licence basis.

Contact: *New Work Trust, Avondale Workshops, Woodland Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1QH; telephone (0272) 603871.*

Move to link aid to firms

by Derek Harris

Realignment of the work of three key organizations involved in improving local initiatives benefitting particularly small and medium-sized businesses is being examined by a working party due to report by Easter.

As a first step the merging of the Confederation of British Industry's Special Programmes Unit into Business in the Community (BIC), the major backer of local enterprise agencies, now seems virtually certain.

A closer working relationship between BIC and the Action Resource Centre, which has specialised in organising secondment of experienced business executives for small business development work, is also being examined.

Another idea being explored is for BIC to have a regional structure to help promote an increase in the number of local enterprise agencies.

These now number around 150 but it is a prime objective of David Trippier, minister for small businesses, to increase that number to 300.

Pressure for the rethink over the work of the three organizations has come from backers of the organizations, mostly blue chip companies. With only a few exceptions the backers are the same.

Stephen O'Brien, chief executive at BIC, says: "There is not so much overlap between the three from an operational point of view but the general perception is that there is overlap and that there is a competition for resources – and obviously that is important. Sponsoring companies feel that an awful lot of people have been knocking on their door."

He believes a closer working relationship will be a recognition that a first phase in the development of organizations around the country dedicated to helping small businesses will soon be over. There is a myriad of such bodies at present, all a response to the drive to create work at a time of high unemployment, but attempts at coordination have so far been at best spasmodic.

O'Brien said: "A natural second phase is for there to be structural changes to make such work more effective."

Sponsorship, particularly by companies, is equally entering a new phase, he believes. BIC has 60 or more organizations, two thirds of them companies, as backers on its governing council.

Some 1,700 companies are actively helping local enterprise agencies around the country, he estimates. O'Brien added: "It has been relatively easy until now to get backing for a new enterprise agency because the business community has proved it wants to help. But after a couple of years there are worries whether the backing will continue, particularly in the flow of seconded executives. About a score of big companies are the main source of secondments because they see the value of either giving young managers out-of-company experience or putting pre-retirement executives' experience to good use in improving the industrial health of the local area."

The challenge will be to persuade more companies below the top rank that backing of small business is in their broad interest and to channel their willingness to help more effectively.

BIC has already warned the Government that because of the pressure on the resources of the big company sponsors it is bound to get more difficult in setting up local enterprise agencies. As well as attracting more companies to the cause, funding from the public sector, as through urban renewal money, will have to be increased, says BIC. The public sector accounts for about a quarter of funding at present.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

1982/83 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Insurance Bonds and Funds

[illegible]

New chairman for consumers' council

APPOINTMENTS

Electricity Consumers' Council: Mr J. V. Hatch is to be chairman for 1984.

Midlands Electricity Consultive Council: Mr L. V. Pike has been re-appointed chairman.

National Gas Consumers' Council: Miss S. P. Black has been re-appointed chairman.

Gas Consumers' Northern Council: Mrs J. H. Stephenson has been appointed chairman.

Southern Gas Consumers' Council: Mr B. R. L. Wilcox has been appointed chairman.

HB Electronics: Mr Lawrence Gordon Hazzard has become non-executive chairman.

P&O Ferries: Mr Eric Turner, general manager of P&O Ferries Scottish, has been appointed a director.

Coates Bros: Mr D. J. Youngmen, group managing director, becomes chairman and chief executive. Mr S. Olszowski becomes deputy chairman.

Olympus Optical Co (UK): Mr John McDowell, previously general manager marketing, has been appointed marketing director. Mr John Batley, general manger finance, becomes finance director, Mr Tony Ransley, general manager administration, becomes administration director.

Wansdyke Security: Lord Erskine of Rerrick has joined the board.

Galleon World Travel: Mr Hugh Thomas has been appointed group managing director.

Bryant Properties: Mr Paul Gillard has become managing director.

Target Life Assurance: Mr David Montague becomes chairman in place of Mr Edward Clowes, who has retired as chairman but remains a non-executive director.

RACING

Mellie can make fine start to chasing career

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Two features of the current jumping season have been the dominance of the Michael Dickinson and Fred Winter stables and the emergence of an encouraging number of promising recruits to the steeplechasing ranks.

Over two miles and two miles and a half the names of Voice of Progress, Lettoch, Gambir, Visconti and Aces Wild spring readily to mind; over three those of Forgive N'Forget, A Kinsman and Duke of Milan. But after the Elcot Park Novices Steeplechase has been run at Newbury today it is quite possible that another will have to be added to the list, that of Mellie, who was good enough to win the Grade II Rendlesham Hurdle over three miles at Kempton last season, beating in the process stayers of the calibre of Goldspun, Mayotte, Here's Why and Crimson Embers.

Against that impressive backcloth Mellie should only have to jump a clear round this afternoon to have today's race at her mercy because in terms of proven ability today's opponents do not compare with those that she has already beaten.

But Mellie still has to show that she is as good at steeplechasing as she was at hurdling and as anyone intimately involved in the game will tell you the chasm that divides the two worlds is not bridged easily.

Mellie's trainer, Robin Blakeney, thinks sufficiently highly of his mare to have declared her against Duke of Milan and A Kinsman at Kempton Park on Tuesday. But he decided to pull her out at the last minute because of the ground, which was becoming firmer by the hour.

The going will be infinitely better and more suitable at Newbury and yesterday Blakeney said that Mellie has jumped far better when practising at home than he had even dared hope. "I thought that she might be a bit free and flamboyant, but in fact she has been very sensible, safe and sound and her whole approach augurs well."

Blakeney added that observers who consider Mellie looking a bit big in the paddock beforehand should take comfort from his assurance that she invariably carries plenty of condititon but that she is quite capable of winning first time out as she showed last season when she won after being off the course for more than a year.

Later in the day recent results point to Rigton Beau and Burnt Oak winning the Abingdon Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle and the Weyhill Handicap Steeplechase, respectively.

The Ramsbury Hurdle is much less cut and dried. While Alastor O'Mavros and Vivaque must be the pick of the field on last year's form neither has shown a glimmer of their real ability so far this season, albeit against top company. In the circumstances it may well pay to remain loyal to a horse who is in form, Fred Winter's unbeaten Infielder, who has justified all the complimentary remarks made about him earlier this season by winning at Chepstow and then over today's course and distance at the last meeting.



A crash-landing for Chuck's Song and his jockey, Carl Gray, in the Heathfield Hurdle, won by Paddy Boro, at Plumpton (Photograph: Chris Cole).

Francome unscathed in four-horse pile up

The champion jockey John Francome, who rode his 59th winner on the dead-heater Greatest Hits at Plumpton yesterday, was one of four riders who had lucky escapes in a four-horse pile up in the Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle. Mons Bean (Ray Goldstein) slipped up on the penultimate bend and brought down Vodkatini (Francome), Only Gorgeous (Rick Pusey) and Summer Cove (Jimmy Akehurst).

Francome walked off and said: "It was a chain reaction after Mons Bean went down." Goldstein was brought back in the course ambulance but the senior Jockey Club medical officer, Dr Michael Allen, reported: "Goldstein was only winded and there are no serious injuries."

After the drama, Super Tek came home a ten length winner for the Polegate trainer, Ben Wise.

Lydia Clay, wife of the Arundel permit holder, Tony, is ready for a champagne celebration after Viewed Away became the eighth winner in her colours at the Sussex course this season. With eight meetings left, Mrs Clay is now six ahead of her nearest rival to win a case of champagne presented to Plumpton's top owner.

Viewed Away, the 1982 Newmarket Town Plate winner, sparked off the Clay's first-ever treble here in November

O'Grady back in step with Vulbuck

Eddie O'Grady, the Tipperary trainer, out of form over the Christmas holiday period in Ireland, found his luck changing at Leopardstown yesterday when Vulbuck won the first running of the Joe Donnelly Handicap Hurdle over three miles, Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes.

There was a surprise in the amateur Flat race in which the 9-4 on favourite, Smoor Fox, faded badly to be beaten more than five lengths by Cranlome.

Noel Meade, whose three-year-old hurdlers have been shaping well, won the Stepaside Hurdle with the filly Rare Duel.

Newbury

Going: good.
Tote: Double 1.30, 2.30. Treble: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0

12.30 ELCOT PARK CHASE (novices: £2,087: 3m) (14 runners)

102 FF24-21 DARGAI (Maj J Urquhart) R Armytage 7-11-4 .... A Webber
104 0P-0002 ATLANTIC BRIDGE (B) (D Cornelius) D Oughton 9-11-0 .... R Kington
105 23F343 BALLYCULLO P(Miss L Bower) Miss L Bower 8-11-0 .... -
106 0P4P0-0 CO MEMBER (Mrs J Finding) Forster 7-11-0 .... H Davies
107 4 DERYCAN (Lady S FitzAlan-Howard) Lady Herries 7-11-0 .... -
[illegible]

1.0 ABINGDON HURDLE (handicap: conditional jockeys: £1,828: 3m 120yd) [illegible]

1.30 HUNGERFORD CHASE (handicap: £2,554: 2m 4f) (7) [illegible]

2.0 WEYHILL CHASE (handicap: £2,590: 3m) (6) [illegible]

2.30 RAMSBURY HURDLE (4-y-o: £2,540: 2m 4f 120yd) (6) [illegible]

3.0 NEWTON HURDLE (handicap: novices: £1,962: 2m 100yd) (17)

[illegible]
611 2830-1 DRAW THE LINE (R Gibson) M Tate 4-10-12 .... R Hyett
612 023063- JUST A RIVER (B Dukes) Mrs B Dukes 9-10-11 .... -
613 3P-1403 RIVERS LAD (R Mayes) G Balding 5-10-9 .... B Reilly
615 00-0400 MANNA BRIDGE (R Lader) D Gandolfo 5-10-7 .... P Barton
616 443314 ASPEN FLARE (P Pollock) R Howe 7-10-6 .... -
617 003- BOSSANOVA BOY (R Henley) P Makin 4-10-5 .... E Waite
618 00000- FALKLAND CONQUEROR (Conley Properties) G Kindersley 5-10-1 S Morshead
620 000-0 JOHN WILLOUGHBY (A Aylett) A Aylett 5-10-0 .... -
621 000-0 TWO EAGLES (G Steinberg) R Armytage 4-10-0 .... A Webber
624 0-000 KING'S FOREST (A Hunt) L Kennard 4-10-0 .... Susan Wilton 7
626 00-0033 SHANNIE (O Zawawi) W Musson 4-10-0 .... M Harrington
627 P00-0 SEAL SHREW (Maj R Dening) R Dening 7-10-0 .... -

9-4 Fionnadoir, 3 Playschool, 7-2 Stray Shot, 6 Hayakaze, 10 River's Lad, 14 Draw The Line, 16 others.

Newbury selections
by Michael Phillips

12.30 Mellie. 1.0 Rigton Beau. 1.30 Henry Kissinger. 2.0 Burnt Oak. 2.30 Infielder. 3.0 Fionnadoir.

Leicester selections
By Michael Phillips

1.0 Greenacres Joy. 1.30 Drom Lady. 2.0 Claude Monet. 2.30 Late Night Extra. 3.0 Fearless Seal. 3.30 Longcliffe.

Taunton selections
By Our Racing Staff

12.15 Lion Hill. 12.45 Seagram. 1.15 Singalong Joe. 1.45 Triska. 2.15 Baron Blakeney. 2.45 My Brave. 3.15 Mossy Bell.

Stratford results

Going: Good to soft.

1.0 AULD LANG SYNE HURDLE (Div I: novices: £690: 2m)

BROCKLEY BELLE, ch f, by Track Spare – Just Jolly (C Spares), 4-10-7 .... J McLaughlin (7-2) 1
Highland Clipper .... F Byrne (11-8 fav) †
Falcon's Heir .... G Davies (100-30) †

TOTE: Win: £3.80, Places: £1.30, Falcon's Heir £2.00, Highland Clipper £1.00. DF: [illegible]

[illegible]

2.30 VIVIAN STREET CHASE (handicap: amateurs). (£1,525: 2m).

MOONSHOT br g Golden Dipper – Popover (C MacSwiney) 9-10-8 .... T Thomson Jones (10-1) 1
Captain Shadow .... Mrs P Nicholls (9-2) 2
Chinnafieh .... C O'Toole (8-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £7.10, Places: £2.10, £1.90, £1.70. DF: £19.30. CSF: £49.28. T Forster at Wantage. nk, 1l. Royal Mere (11-4 fav). Goldenogan (33-1) 4th. 12 ran.

3.00 DARK STRANGERS CHASE (handicap: novices) (£1,333: 2m)

ELMBROOK b g Orchardist–Ready Cash (Mrs P Joynes) 7-10-6 .... R Dickin (7-1) 1
Crowning Moment .... K Mooney (9-4 fav) 2
Sam Bennion .... J Burke (16-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £5.00, Places: £1.30, £1.60, £4.10. DF: £5.40. CSF: £23.21. J Spearing at Alcester. 20l, 2½l. Gold Racer (20-1) 4th. 9 ran.

3.30 AULD LANG SYNE HURDLE (Div. II: novices). (£690: 2m).

BURNDITCH BOY b g More Music–Tunmel (R Hughes) 4-10-9 .... C Chinn (5-1) 1
Tancred Walk .... J Bryan (14-1) 2
Norfolk Realm .... S Smith Eccles (4-6 fav) 3

TOTE: Win: £7.20, Places: £2.20, £2.90, £1.00. DF: £48.30. CSF: £89.33. PLACEPOT: £12.30. M Eckley at Ludlow. 2l, 2l. Lingac Gold (20-1) 4th. NR: The Cobalt Unit. 12 ran.

● Get Out Of Me Way, pulled up in the Coral Welsh National on Tuesday, will not race again this season. His trainer Mr Graham Thorner said: "He has suffered a recurrence of his old back trouble and all we can do is give him time to recover."

Leicester

Going: Good to soft

1.0 HOBY HURDLE (selling: £631: 2m) (12 runners)

4 p0-00 LEGAL BEAU P Allingham 4-11-7 .... Mr S R Andrews 7
5 0003 NARSINH (B) J Jenkins 4-11-7 .... J J O'Neill
6 pf00 NATIVE SON (B) P Pritchard 4-11-7 .... -
11 41 GREENACRES JOY (D) B McMahon 3-10-7 .... P Dever 7
12 1 HARVEST J Hardy 3-10-7 .... S Johnson
16 3 LITTLE HUNGARIAN P Hedger 3-10-7 .... M Richards 4
17 00 LUCIEN LASAGE A Leighton 3-10-7 .... -
20 6 QUEENSBURY FRED D Dale 3-10-7 .... J Barlow
22 TIMMY BOY B Cambridge 3-10-7 .... Mr J Cambridge
[illegible]

1.30 BRIAN INGAMELLS SNOOKER CLUB HURDLE (novices: £942: 2m) (18) [illegible]

2.0 QUORN CHASE (novices: £1,306: 2m) (10) [illegible]

21 0/ppu- MOT JUSTE M Castell 7-10-13 .... M Castell

11-8 Noon Gun, 9-4 Claude Monet, 100-30 Ghazal, 12 Alabama, 14 Sir Lester, 18 others.

2.30 HANCOCK CHASE (handicap: £1,783: 2m 4f) (5)

4 331-p STACCATO (D) D Gandolfo 10-11-7 .... M Richards 4
7 41-p3 LATE NIGHT EXTRA (D) K Bailey 7-11-5 .... A Webb
9 20/1- LEFT BANK (D) D Morley 5-10-8 .... N Madden
12 0b-00 NINTH ADDITION P Felgate 8-10-0 .... P Dever 7
13 p/p3- GRANGE PRINCE C Lee 11-10-0 .... S Johnson

11-10 Left Bank, 7-4 Late Night Extra, 3 Staccato, 16 others.

3.0 GALLOWTREE CHASE (novices: £1,656: 3m) (20)

3 p0p-1 WHAT A BOY J Gifford 8-11-5 .... P Double
[illegible]

3.30 MIDLAND HURDLE (handicap: £820: 2m) (13) [illegible]

Taunton

GOING: good to soft

12.15 ALEX STANLEY BABS WAREHAM CHASE (Div I: novices: amateurs: £1,100: 3m 1f) (11 runners) [illegible]

12.45 HOLLY TREE HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: novices: £547: 2m) (18) [illegible]

1.15 HANGOVER HURDLE (Selling: £526: 2m) (21) [illegible]

1.45 ST JOHN'S DAY CHASE (Handicap: £1,752: 2m 3f) (5) [illegible]

2.15 ALEX STANLEY BABS WAREHAM CHASE (Div II: novices: amateurs: £1,100: 3m 1f) (10) [illegible]

2.45 WELLINGTON HURDLE (Handicap: £1,086: 3m 1f) (22) [illegible]

3.15 HOLLY TREE HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: novices: £549: 2m) (18)

2p1 MOSSY BELL (D) R Holder 11-0 .... N Coleman 7
010 WHENEVER (D) D Barons 11-0 .... J Frost
22 BROWN RIFLE D Burchell 10-9 .... W Knox 7
COUNT MORPHEUS R Baker 10-9 .... -
0 MR CHEDDAR R Hannon 10-9 .... -
NORTHERN BEAU I Dudgeon 10-9 .... P Hobbs
ORYX MAJOR S Mellor 10-9 .... M Perrett
0 REGAL SYMPHONY A Andrews 10-9 .... -
p TIGRETTA Miss S Morris 10-9 .... M O'Halloran
10 CHALET WALDEGG D Gandolfo 10-4 .... J Burke
KAREN KELLY Mrs M Babbage 10-4 .... Mr N Babbage 4
LADY WREKIN R Pocock 10-4 .... -
4 LEARCTIC J Thorne 10-4 .... P Nicholls
MOPSY LOVEJOY B Stevens 10-4 .... R Stronge 4
0 SPEED UP I Wardle 10-4 .... -
p STORMY HAZE (B) R Holder 10-4 .... P Richards
TOM'S COMEDY W R Williams 10-4 .... C Gray 4
9 TODOR ROOT D Wintle 10-4 .... J Wathen 7

[illegible]-8 Mossy Bell, 11-4 Brown Rifle, 8 Learctic, Whenever, 10 Mr Cheddar, Oryx Major, 16 Mopsy Lovejoy, Tom's Comedy, 25 others.

Plumpton

Going: Good

12.45 HEATHFIELD HURDLE (Div I: novices: £690: 2m)

PADDY BORO ch g by Paddy's Progress – [illegible]

[illegible]

Brahms and Liszt .... L Mancini (4-1) 2
Hopeful Answer .... R Chapman (3-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.20. Places: £1.20, £1.90. DF: £2.50. CSF: £6.14. D Oughton at Findon. 4l, 20l. Grey Tarquin (16-1) 4th. 6 ran. NR: Truncheon.

3.15 LADBROKE HURDLE (handicap: £923: 2m)

SUPER TEX br g by Tekoah – Barbara's Dream (J Howgego) 5-10-7 R Rowell (11-2) 1
Mercy Lees .... R Hughes (8-1) 2
Topori .... P Nicholls (14-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £6.50. Places: £1.50, £2.80, £3.50. DF: £26.00. CSF: £51.16. TRICAST: £561.22. B Wise at Polegate. 10l, 10l. The Calvados Kid (14-1) 4th. Vodkatini (5-4 Fav) 15 ran. NR: Coal Bunker. PLACEPOT: £34.05.

● William Bissill, aged 75, the former trainer and Nottingham steward died on Wednesday at his home at Aslockton, near Nottingham. The highlights of his career were riding the winner of the Liverpool Foxhunters Chase, and later saddling the winners of both the Scottish Grand National and the Welsh Grand National.

RUGBY UNION

England selectors open way for Barnes by playing Davies at centre

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Huw Davies who won three of his 11 caps at centre last season but has played most of his rugby at stand-off half, seems likely to revert to centre for England in the international championship this season. He has been picked to partner Woodward in the senior side in the national trial at Twickenham on January 7, a move which also allows the selectors to see the promising Barnes in opposition to Cusworth, the sitting tenant at stand-off.

True to their promise the selectors have chosen a junior side which will test England's capacities to the full, in particular at scrummage and lineout. Six Gloucester forwards are named in The Rest team, including the front row of Sargent, Mills and Blakeway; it is not difficult to imagine Wheeler, hooker and captain of England against New Zealand, heaving a sigh of relief that his injured thumb will prevent him from playing in the trial.

Wheeler was one of seven players who were not considered because of injury, the others being Dodge (Leicester), Halliday (Bath) Melville (Wasps), Rendall (Wasps), Jeavons (Moseley) and Stuart Redfern (Leicester). In Wheeler's absence the captaincy passes to Colclough and the job of hooker to Andy Simpson (Sale). The only other change to the side who beat the All Blacks 15-9 last month is the replacement of Dodge by Davies.

All the other members of the England XV earned their right to the senior places by virtue of that win. But, as distinct from last season's trial The Rest's forwards should obtain sufficienmt possession for them to press England hard. They have Smith's shrewd head to direct them from scrum half and some elusive runners in midfield to test their central defence.

It is hard to quarrel with the selection. When in doubt, past experience has counted, as with Preston, Swift and Cooke. It would be wrong to suggest that the international days of Sargent and Fidler, aged 33 and 35 respectively, are past – after all White, on England's loose head, is no chicken – but they are there because nothing will move them in the scrums and Fidler is still one of the best middle-of-the-line jumpers in the country.

That having been said, the England forwards should have a distinct edge in mobility and I hope they have the confidence to play a broader a game than the one that served against New Zealand. It was good to see Woodward playing with such thought for his club against the Barbarians on Wednesday, a more mature game rather than a purely instinctive one upon which he has sometimes tended to rely.

It will be equally good to see Carleton back in action after his leg injury against New Zealand and to see what Bailey makes of him. Bailey, on The Rest's left wing, is a rumour of power and surprising pace for one who is 6ft 2in and 14st but defensively he is not so well organized. He will be aware that Goodwin (Moseley) and Hesford (Leicester) are breathing down his neck, while among those for whom cases could be made on the right wing are Trick, capped once last season, but suffering this because of Barnes's fluctuating form. Evans (Leicester) a. I Smith (Cambridge University and Wasps).

Goodwin is one of 17 players asked to attend the trial as reserve, many of whom have claims almost as good as those named in The Rest XV. Those 17 do not include Hesford, the Bristol No 8, who was an England replacement in 1981 and 1983 and won five caps but who has been overtaken by Teague, in tremendous form for Gloucester this season, and Richards (Leicester). They do include two players who do not appear regularly for the senior sides of their respective clubs, Preedy, who occupies the same position as his Gloucester captain, Sargent, and Sidi, the Harlequins hooker who is still a student.

After the trial a squad will be chosen to meet at Bisham Abbey on January 21, the opening day of the international championship, when England are not involved. The team for England's first game, against Scotland in Edinburgh on February 4, will be chosen after the gathering at Bisham.

Trial teams

ENGLAND: W H Hare (Leicester); J Carleton (Orrell), G H Davies (Wasps), C R Woodward (Leicester), M A C Slemen (Liverpool); L Cusworth (Leicester), N C Youngs (Leicester); C White (Gosforth), A Simpson (Sale), G S Pearce (Northampton), P Simpson (Bath), M J Colclough (Wasps, captain), S Bainbridge (Gosforth), P J Winterbottom (Headingley), J P Scott (Cardiff).

THE REST: H C Stringer (Wasps); A H Swift (Swansea), J Palmer (Bath), N J Preston (Richmond), M Bailey (Cambridge University); S Barnes (Oxford University), S J Smith (Sale, captain); G Sargent, S Mills, P Blakeway, J Gadd, J Fidler (all Gloucester), J Syddall (Waterloo), D H Cooke (Harlequins), M Teague (Gloucester).

REPLACEMENTS: W M H Rose (Rosslyn Park), S Holdstock (Nottingham), A M Bond (Sale), B Barley (Wakefield), R Knibbs (Bristol), J Goodwin (Moseley), A Hill (Bath), L George (London Welsh), M Preedy (Gloucester), A Simmons (Wasps), P Sidi (Harlequins), Steve Redfern (Leicester), V Cannon (Northampton), D Cusani (Orrell), J Hall (Bath), G Rees (Nottingham), D Richards (Leicester).

Partners of distinction

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

At this time of year, young players are striving to make the considerable jump between schools and representative rugby. Yorkshire have made a satisfactory start to the county season at both 18 and 16 group level and have demonstrated the talent of two highly promising players, Carling and Priestley, partners in the centre.

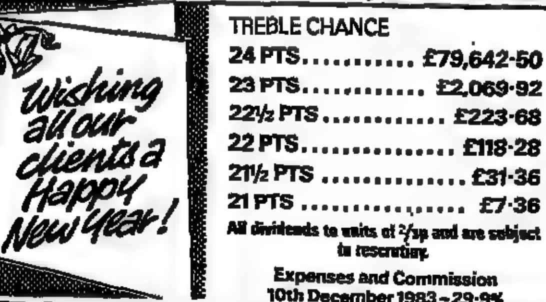
Across the Pennines Cowley have not had a successful season largely because of the extreme youthfulness of their side; but there is no mistaking the pedigree of their fine halves, Sephton and Fazackerley, both representing Lancashire. It will be interesting to compare them to Carling and Priestley when Lancashire and Yorkshire meet in the 18 group Roses match at Ruskin Park on January 7. Each pair has served notice of future distinction.

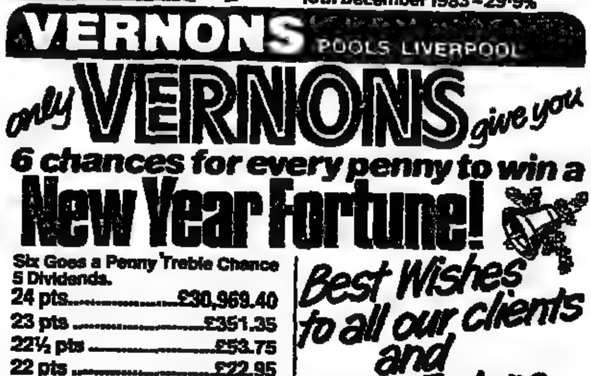
Perhaps the most promising young player of all, in the North so far, is Waite, the Cumbrian scrum half, who, with his partner, Bevan, is from Cockermouth GS.

One of the most recent 18 group count matches was between Cheshire and Northumberland at Sale. Leading 3-0 at half-time, Northumberland bowed in the second half to a forceful and powerful Cheshire pack, to lose a match by 27 points to three. Outstanding for the winners were their speedy wings, Langton of Wirral GS and Edwards of Sale CGS.

Blundell's enjoyed one of their best seasons for years, scoring 452 points and acquiring the highly creditable record of: played 17, won 14, drawn two, lost one. Their only defeat was by the powerful Sherborne side, and their victims included Clifton, Bishop's Stortford, Canford, King's Taunton, Downside, and Taunton. In addition, they drew with the successful Dulwich side







Welsh club play is encouraging

By Gerald Davies

Despite the uncertainty that hangs over the Welsh team – pessimism which is considered by other countries to be a national characteristic when it comes to rugby matters, and is regarded with suspicion – it must be admitted, with the season half way through, that there is much encouragement to be found on the club scene of late.

Pontypool, content to follow a predetermined course which has been pursued assiduously for the past dozen years of so, are still maintaining a powerful momentum, as indicated by their convincing victory away to Bath over the holiday period. They have been beaten only once – by Cardiff – as teams fail to find an answer to their overwhelming forward dominance. Peter Lewis, their full back, has scored more than 200 points, while David Bishop, with 23 tries, at scrum half, looks on course to better his 33 tries, which made him top try scorer in Welsh Rugby last season.

The most improved side, is Newport, under the guidance of Charlie Faulkner, their coach. Their substantial 53–14 victory, which included nine tries, over Maesteg, themselves no slouches these days, confirms their progress. From unsure beginnings, Cardiff Llanelli, and Bridgend are gradually climbing back, happily combining success with entertainment.

Although fallen from their status of last year, Swansea cannot surely be long in recapturing their form with so much talent at their disposal. The return of Richard Moriarty, after his sojourn in South Africa, has made a difference as Ian Hall, their coach, suggested earlier in the season. He and his brother Paul, at No 8, are an energetic pair, whose enthusiasm tends to rub off on others. The return to form of David Richards, their captain, after long injury, provides a presence which was so obviously apparent in their thrilling second-half display against London Welsh last Tuesday.

Swansea have six representatives in the Welsh squad, the most for any club, followed by Cardiff with four, Pontypool are down to three, the lowest for a decade. Bridgend, Llanelli and Newport have the same quota. The selection this year looks to have been carried out on fairly democratic lines. Fourteen clubs have representatives in the squad of 34.

The clubs of so-called first-class status to be excluded as Ebbw Vale, who must bemoan the fact that Carl Dennehy, their No 8, is not worthy of inclusion. Penmarth, Rhymney and Tredegar would have to dust down their recoed books to find when last they were favoured.

Such a wide-ranging choice might indicate either that talent is fairly evenly distributed throughout the clubs, or that there is a good deal of uncertainty about the final make-up of the team. More than ever this year, the selectors are as much on trial, as the players.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Third division
Millwall v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Fourth division
Tranmere v Reading (7.30)
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Frickley v Gateshead (7.30)
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Walthamstow v Staines (7.30)
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedworth v Folkestone (7.30)
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: First round, first leg: Worksop v Goole (7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

CLUB MATCH: Newbridge v Pontypool (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Women's Territorial tournament: East (at Eurosport Village, Shotley, nr. Ipswich, 9.45); Midlands (at Bedford CHE, 10.0); North (at Queen Mary School, Lytham St Annes, 10.0); South (at Bisham Abbey NSC, 10.0); West (at Ladies' College Playing Fields, Cheltenham, 10.30).

BASKETBALL: World Invitation club championships (at Crystal Palace NSC, 10.0).

RACKETS: Swallow Trophy (Under-24 open singles) (at Queen's Club, West Kensington)

BASKETBALL



Lamperti, Barwiera and Keenan in a close encounter during the Bracknell Pirates-Simac Milan match (Photograph Ian Stewart).

Jury uphold Bracknell appeal

By Nicholas Harling

No Philips-sponsored tournament would be complete without its contentious issue and so it was again at Crystal Palace yesterday on the opening day of the seventh World Invitation Club Championships.

This time the club with a justifiable grouse were Bracknell Pirates, the English team invited to compete at the last moment because Burgerland, the Irish club, could not raise the fare. Bracknell protested that with the scores level at 86-86, and 9sec. of their first round tie with Simac Milan remaining, the Italians sank a winning basket that was highly illegal. They claimed that Mike D'Antoni, Milan's American, who had been fouled out 8sec. earlier and was therefore not permitted to take any further interest in the proceedings, threw the ball to Meneghin, who was waiting under the basket.

The technical committee rejected the first appeal from Bracknell but the jury of appeal upheld the second and ordered the teams to meet again late last night or first thing this morning. This Milan refused to do, saying their players had dispersed and could not be reassembled in time.

D'Antoni might never have had such a dramatic influence on events had Palace not sent a car to Heathrow to meet his flight from South Carolina, which had been delayed six hours by the weather. He arrived at half-time, by when Bracknell, inspired by Balogun, were leading the second seeds 47-41.

In the previous match, another British club, Edinburgh, also squandered a lead, which was 10 points at one time, only to survive by one point against the Austrian club, Klosterneuberg.

MEN: First round: Murray International Metals, Edinburgh 68 (Foggin 22, Way 16), Klosterneuberg 67 (Kos 25, Relvio 20); Simac Milan 88 (Premier 32, Meneghin 23), Bracknell Pirates 86 (Balogun 23, Callandrillo 21); Sunderland 92 (Wearren 26, Brandon 20), Leverkusen (WG) 86 (Oldham 24, Harnett 22); Red Star Belgrade 104 (Bogo 24, Radovic 21), Bologna 98 (Douglas 30, Williams 25); Real Stade Feracais 85 (Radovanovic 28, Dubuisson 21), Brighton 86 (Tux 33, Jenkins 21).

WOMEN: Group A: Poznan 73, Burgerland (Ireland) 60; Chung Hua (China) 117, Hemel Hempstead 30; Crystal Palace 84, Burgerland 74; Poznan 112, Hemel Hempstead 33. Group B: Red Star Belgrade 68, Edinburgh 47; Brighton 34, Klosterneuberg 86; Leverkusen 63, Edinburgh 50.

JUNIOR MEN: First group: Poznan 80, Edinburgh 33. Second group: Leverkusen 101, Warrington 74; Crystal Palace 86, Hemel Hempstead 75.

BOXING

Mancini doubt over cuts treatment

John Feeney, the British bantamweight champion, will soon be challenging for the European title again, if his manager Dennie Mancini gets his way (Bryan Stiles writes). The Hartlepool boxer staged a spirited assault on the European crown held by the Italian, Walter Giorgetti, on Wednesday night in Campobasso, southern Italy, and it looked at one stage as if he might take the title when he opened up cuts around the champion's eyes.

The repair work by Giorgetti's cornermen closed the wounds and the champion retained his title on a unanimous decision by the referee and two judges. But Mancini is unhappy with the substance used to seal the cuts. "Under the British and the EBU rules only a solution of adrenalin, of just one in a thousand, is permissible, but whatever the Italians used it certainly was not that," he said. "I have written a letter to the British Board and given them my views about the solution."

Mancini said he did not think Feeney had finished fighting for the European title. Feeney, aged 25, might soon have another crack at the Commonwealth title held by the Australian, Paul Ferreri, to whom he lost last year.

● Barry McGuigan, the British and European featherweight champion, will meet Charm Chiteule, from Ghana now boxing out of Las Vegas, in Belfast on January 25 in a final eliminator for the Commonwealth title (George Ace writes). Chiteule has lost only three times in a 29-bout career.



Feeney: Spirited assault

Hugh Russell will meet Kelvin Smart for the Welshman's British flyweight title in a chief supporting bout.

● Mark Kaylor starts his campaign to become the undisputed king of Britain's middleweights when he meets the American Ralph Moncrieff at the Royal Albert Hall on January 17. Kaylor took the British and Commonwealth titles from Roy Gumbs in September and is now building up for a clash with Tony Sibson.

● Tom Collins (Leeds) hopes to secure a European title challenge against the Dutchman Rudi Koopmans early in the new year but first must defend his British light-heavyweight crown against Dennis Andries at the Lyceum, London on January 26.

YACHTING

Rival says she was grounded

From John Roberson
Hobart

The American yacht, Nirvana, won line honours in the Sydney-Hobart race yesterday and then became involved in a dispute with her closest rival, who alleged she had been run aground.

The incident happened six miles from the finish after Nirvana and the Bermudian sloop, Condor, had been tussling for the whole of the 628-mile race. Nirvana crossed the line 1min 0.76sec ahead of Condor, in three days, 48 minutes, 13 seconds. Appolo, of Sydney, was third, almost two hours later.

At the time of the incident, over which both lodged protests, Condor was trying to regain the lead, having lost it to Nirvana five miles earlier. The two touched and Condor ran aground for five minutes at White Rocks Point, in Hobart's Derwent river estuary. Condor's skipper, Bob Bell, said they tried to heel the boat over, using the sails. When that failed, they used a spinnaker pole to push themselves off.

The leading Southern Cross Cup team yachts have made slow progress. By early morning only five had entered the river and started the 11-mile leg to the finish.

Among them was the British yacht, Indulgence, who may have improved on her estimated placing of 13th. The second British yacht, Panda, was expected to join those becalmed in the river before sunrise.

HOCKEY

Herefordshire stay wide awake

Her-fordshire won again in the West tournament of the women's territorial series at Cheltenham yesterday. In a tight game they surprisingly beat Avon 2-1. Dobie Stephen scored first for Avon but Herifordshire attacked strongly and Julie Fullerton and Sarah Potter put the result beyond doubt (Joyce Whitehead writes). Hertford won playing extremely well.

Dorset made a valiant effort and held Devon for two thirds of the game. But Dvon a little overanxious at the start scored two gols before the end through Lucy Moland and Cathy Thompson to keep them well in the lead.

By beating Kent 2-1 in the East tournament at Shotley Essex (the holders) brought themselves into top place as Suffolk lost to Hertfordshire 0-1. Kent scored first through Ann Parmenter but Brenda Howe scored twice for Essex.

The Midlands had a busy day at Bedford but only 10 goals were scored in seven matches. The key game between Staffordshire and Leicestershire ended in a goalless draw and Warwickshire who had 80 per cent of the attack could not score against Bedfordshire.

TERRITORIAL TOURNAMENTS: East: Essex 2, Kent 1; Cambridgeshire 2, Norfolk 6; Suffolk 0, Hertfordshire 1; Lincolnshire 0, Huntingdonshire 3. Midlands: Warwickshire 0, Bedfordshire 0; Staffordshire 0, Leicestershire 0; Bedford College 2, Derbyshire 1; Shropshire 2, Nottinghamshire 1; Northamptonshire 2, Worcestershire 0; Leicestershire 2, Bedfordshire 0; Staffordshire 0, Nottinghamshire 0. North: Durham 0, Cumberland 0; Northumberland 2, Manchester League 1; Lancashire Central 1, Sheffield League 0; Westmorland 0, Cheshire 1; Yorkshire 1, Lancashire 1. West: Devon 2, Dorset , Somset 5, Wiltshire 0; Cornwall 0, Gloucestershire 1; Avon 1, Herefordshire 2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Off-ball tackle brings Wright four-match ban

The off-the-ball tackle by the New Zealand international full back, Nick Wright, for Oldham against Wakefield Trinity's Australian player, Wally Lewis, on December 18 has cost him and the Oldham club dearly (Keith Macklin writes). At a disciplinary committee meeting in Leeds yesterday, Wright was suspended for four matches.

Other players to receive four-match bans for serious offences were Graham Douglas (Doncaster), Kevin Watson (Hull Kingston Rovers) and Andrew Secombe (Huyton). Suspended for two matches were Andrew Duffy (Rochdale Hornets) and John Buckton (Doncaster). Among those suspended for one game were David Allen, the Fulham utility player, and for sin-bin offences Gary Bishop, the Kent Invicta half back.

Nigel French, the Kent Invicta and former Wasps and Barrow centre, has retired from the game

SQUASH RACKETS

Kenyon moves to head of rankings

Philip Kenyon, who recently regained the British championship, has moved to top place in the English rankings (Rex Bellamy writes). Gawain Briars, the former British champion, now ranks second. Geoff Williams, who was in eleventh place a year ago, has risen to third.

Hidayat Jahan, the most highly ranked British player in the world ratings, has not been included in the English rankings. He did not compete in the British national championship, which was an obligatory event for ranking purposes.

LEADING RANKINGS: 1, P Kenyon; 2, G Briars; 3, G Williams; 4, A Naylor; 5, N Harvey; 6, A Dwyer; 7, J Hickox; 8, C Wilstrop; 9, P Verow; 10, I Robinson.

● David Lloyd, ranked 14th, and Zain Saleh, 20th, have been seeded to contest the final of the British under-19 open championship at Bromley Town Squash Club.

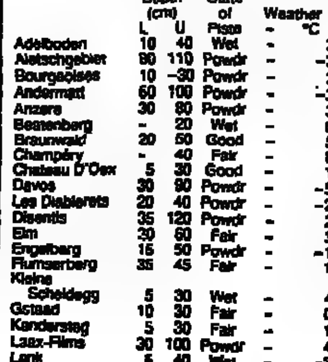
TENNIS

Experience the potent factor against youth

Kate Brasher, the British No 7, had another trouble-free match in the Sunsilk Christmas tournament at Queen's Club and this morning meets Jane Langstaff, of Surrey, for a place in the final (Lewine Mair writes).

Miss Brasher's quarter-final opponent was Clare Wood, aged 15, who has had a good season in the 16 and under class. Miss Wood often set about things in the right way against the No 1 seed but was never quite reconciled to the fact that Miss Brasher was able to return many more shots than a player from Miss Wood's own age group can usually do.

RESULTS: Second round: J Langstaff bt J Reeves, 7-5, 6-0; S Leach bt J Caplen, 6-1, 7-6; P Yates bt J Wood, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; J Rich bt S McCarthy, 6-1, 6-2; M Collins bt K Montague, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3. Quarter finals: Brasher bt C Wood, 6-0, 6-1; Langstaff bt Leach 6-2, 6-2; Rich bt Yates 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; D Walker bt Collins, 6-1, 6-2.



FOOTBALL

Cussins replaced as Leeds chairman

Manny Cussins, the millionaire chairman of Leeds United, has stepped down. The new chairman is to be his close friend, Leslie Silver, the present vice-chairman.

Mr Cussins, aged 79, will swap titles with Mr Silver, 20 years his junior, by staying on as his No 2. As vice-chairman he will continue to give the club his financial backing.

Last night Mr Cussins said: "I feel very sad at leaving a job which I've held since May 1972. I've enjoyed the involvement. The only reason I am stepping down is because my health is not as good I as I would like. I feel the time has come to pass over my responsibility to a man who will make a superb chairman."

Mr Silver, chairman of the Batley group of paint-producing companies, was unavailable for comment. He is on his way home from Israel, where he spent Christmas. Mr Silver joined the board in April 1981. One of Mr Cussins's greatest regrets is that his reign of eleven and a half years did not see more success. However he insists that he is not handing over a sinking ship. "I honestly believe Leeds United will come good again."

● Leeds have received clearance from the Canadian F.A. for Peter Lorimer to play league football again after a spell in Toronto. The former Scotland winger, whose last game for Leeds was in 1979, may play in tomorrow's home game against Middlesbrough.

● Steve Coppell, the former Manchester United player, is considering a tempting offer from Wigan Athletic, of the third division. Coppell, whose career at club and international level was curtailed by a knee injury, is wanted by Wigan as co-manager with Harry McNally.

● Mick Ferguson, the Birmingham City forward who has not played in the first team this season, goes into hospital today for an abdominal operation. The full back Jim Hagan, injured at Arsenal on Tuesday, will also have surgery today to reset a depressed facture of his cheekbone and is expected to be out for at least six weeks.

Battling Nuneaton need a good run in Trophy

By Paul Newman

Twelve months ago bookmakers would probably have offered generous odds against Nuneaton Borough surviving into 1984. Today the club are still striving to overcome financial problems but go into 1984 challenging strongly for the Alliance Premier League championship and with attendances increasing.

Nuneaton were in serious danger of going out of business earlier this year. Traditionally big spenders on wages and transfers, they had lost £127,000 in two seasons and owed one of the their creditors £44,000. In recent months, however, thanks largely to the improved attendances and to the efforts of a fund-raising committee and the club's commercial staff, they have begun to pay their debts.

Noel Kelly, Nuneaton's chairman, said yesterday: "Things are going better, but although we've reduced our overall debt considerably we still have a battle on our hands. We need a good run in the FA Trophy to bring in some cash, and we are still looking for a sponsor."

Mr Kelly gives the credit for Nuneaton's revival on the pitch to Graham Carr, now in his third season as manager. Carr, one of the most experienced managers in non-League football, was told earlier this year that no more money was available for transfers and he has had to strengthen the squad with players signed on free transfers.

Nuneaton have led the Alliance for most of the season and have the league's leading goalscorer in Paul Culpin, who joined the club last year after failing to make the grade at Leicester City. Culpin, aged 21, has scored 21 goals in 22 league games and has attracted a string of Canon League scouts to Manor Park.

Ever since Mr Kelly became chairman six years ago, his aim has been to take Nuneaton into the League and he believes that ambition could be realized this year: the Alliance champions, provided their facilities are adequate, automatically go forward as candidates for election to the League at the end of the season.

Nuneaton's attendances are currently averaging more than 900 – despite a 50 per cent increase in admission charges last season – and more than 1,200 people watched a recent match at home to the current leaders, Runcorn. Mr Kelly believes Nuneaton would attract gates of around 4,000 in the fourth division. Ten years ago they regularly attracted Southern League gates of more than 2,000.

Nuneaton face a stiff test of their championship credentials this weekend, for they meet two of their strongest challengers, Maidstone United and Telford United, in the space of three days. Enfield, who have suffered a series of injuries, are probably out of contention for the championship, but several other clubs could pose a threat to Runcorn and Nuneaton, who have opended a five-point gap at the top of the table.

Northwich Victoria, Maidstone, Altrincham, Scarborough and Telford, five of the most established Alliance clubs, are well placed, and Wealdstone, Worcester City and Barnet could make a serious challenge if they took advantage of their games in hand.

ALLIANCE LEAGUE LEADING POSITIONS



	P	HW	AW	D	L	F	A	Pts
Runcorn	22	7	6	7	2	34	19	39
Nuneaton	22	9	5	4	4	37	20	37
Northwich	22	8	4	4	6	34	22	32
Maidstone	20	5	5	6	4	31	18	31
Altrincham	21	8	4	3	6	38	24	31
Scarboro'	21	8	3	6	4	33	20	31
Telford	21	7	4	4	6	28	23	30
Wealdstone	17	4	4	7	2	25	10	27
Worcester	19	5	4	4	6	34	25	26
Barnet	18	3	5	5	5	23	19	26
Enfield	22	4	4	5	9	34	26	25

● Home win: 2pts; away win: 3pts; draw: 1pt.

Wednesday's results

FIRST DIVISION: Nottingham Forest 3, Coventry City 0.

SECOND DIVISION: Blackburn Rovers 1, Barnsley 1; Cambridge United 2, Grimsby Town 2.

FOURTH DIVISION: Crewe Alexandra 2, Bristol City 2.

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Leatherhead 2, Windsor and Eton 3. Replays: Matlock 4, Alvechurch 2; Stafford 1, Bromsgrove 1 (aet: score at 90 mins 0-0). Second replay: Gloucester 2, Salisbury 0.

IN BRIEF

More haste – less speed

Paris (AFP) – Four world speedskating records set this month will not stand because they were achieved in competition outside the International Skating Union's (ISU) official calendar. Three of the "records" were set this week during competition on a high altitude rink near Alma-Ata in the Soviet Union and the other earlier this month in East Germany.

SPORTS COUNCIL: Emlyn Jones hinted yesterday that he may soon clear up the year-long mystery surrounding his sudden departure as director general of the Sports Council. But he said that legal matters had to be resolved before he could make a more detailed statement. Jones, aged 62, resigned, from his £25,000-a-year in November last year.

ATHLETICS: Victor Mora, of Colombia, aged 39, will seek to write his name into the record books by winning the round-the-houses race for the fifth time in São Paulo tomorrow. Mora, who first won the event in 1972, needs one more triumph to surpass Gaston Roelants of Belgium, the winner of four successive races in the sixties.

FOR THE RECORD

TENNIS

ADELAIDE: Men's singles, first round: S Youl (Aus) bt J Vanier (Fr), 6-3, 6-7, 6-3; J Canter (US) bt C Johnstone (Aus), 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; M Bauer (US) bt M Brunnberg (US), 6-3, 6-2; C Lewis (NZ) bt J Frawly (Aus), 6-3, 6-4; L Courteau (Fr) bt J Austin (US), 6-2, 6-1; D Mustard (NZ) bt C Miller (Aus), 6-4, 6-2; P Doohan (Aus) bt B Derlin (NZ), 6-1, 6-2; G Whitecross bt C Fancutt (Aus), 7-6, 7-6; J Smith (GB) bt B Dyke (US), 6-1, 5-7, 6-4.

PORT WASHINGTON: International junior championships: Boys' 14 and under singles, third round: D Daucla (US) bt D Sapsford (GB), 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finals: Daucla bt C Beecher (GB), 6-3, 6-1. Girls' 12 and under singles, third round: J Donovan (GB) bt K Poehner (US), 6-0, 6-0.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Detroit Pistons 111, New York Knicks 108; Milwaukee Bucks 89; New Jersey Nets 85; Dallas Mavericks 109, San Diego Clippers 92; Phoenix Suns 128, Golden State Warriors 105; Utah Jazz 113, Seattle Supersonics 105.

CYCLING

COLOGNE: Six-day race (after two days): 1, Kristen (WG) and R Pijnen (Neth), 90pts; 2, D Thurau and A Fritz (WG), 55. One lap behind: 3, H Schutz (WG) and R Dill-Bundi (Switz), 135; 4, G Braun (WG) and G Frank (Den), 83. Three laps behind: 5, H Betz (WG) and G Wiggins (Aus), 57.

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Fulham 3, West Ham 0.

NORDIC SKIING

OBERWIESENTHAL: Combined World Cup: Jumping event: 1, S Bonder (USSR), 219.4pts; 2, G Schmieder (EG), 219; 3, A Prosvirnin (USSR), 218.1.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to Resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andorra	30	45	Fair	Varied	Poor	Fine	6
Good skiing on some runs.							
Arosa	55	70	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	3
Good skiing on most runs.							
Avoriaz	45	50	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	5
Some runs getting worn.							
Grindelwald	0	30	Worn	Heavy	Closed	Fine	6
More snow needed for all runs.							
Isola 2000	80	155	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	1
South slopes icy in morning.							
Kitzbühel	5	70	Worn	Crust	Poor	Fine	−1
Mixture of slush and ice.							
Klosters	25	85	Fair	Heavy	Poor	Thaw	4
Slush on lower slopes.							
Leysin	5	35	Worn	Varied	Poor	Fine	14
Very worn patches on lower slopes.							
Mürren	25	50	Fair	Varied	Poor	Fine	7
Good skiing above 2,000m.							
La Plagne	50	100	Worn	Crust	Fair	Fine	2
Rockey patches on pistes.							
St Anton	40	100	Worn	Varied	Fair	Fine	3
Slush below 2,000m.							
Seefeld	25	40	Fair	Heavy	Poor	Fine	5
Worn patches on lower slopes.							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following report has been received from other sources:

SWITZERLAND

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Adelboden	10	40	Wet	-	2
Aletschgebiet	90	110	Powdr	-	−3
Bourgaoises	10	−30	Powdr	-	2
Andermatt	60	100	Powdr	-	−3
Anzere	30	80	Powdr	-	3
Beatenberg	–	20	Wet	-	6
Braunwald	20	50	Good	-	5
Champéry	–	40	Fair	-	8
Chateau D'Oex	5	30	Good	-	1
Davos	30	90	Powdr	-	−5
Les Diablerets	20	40	Powdr	-	−2
Disentis	35	120	Powdr	-	2
Elm	30	60	Fair	-	3
Engelberg	15	50	Powdr	-	−1
Flumserberg	35	45	Fair	-	1
Kleine Scheidegg	5	30	Wet	-	4
Gstaad	10	30	Fair	-	0
Kandersteg	5	30	Fair	-	1
Laax-Flims	30	100	Powdr	-	4
Lenk	5	40	Wet	-	−3
Lenzerheide	40	60	Powdr	-	1
Leukerbad	30	100	Powdr	-	5
Lungern-Schoenbuel	40	60	Good	-	5
Malbun	30	50	Fair	-	2
Meiringen-Hasliberg	5	35	Good	-	5
Hoch-Ybrig	20	50	Wet	-	3
Pizol	–	50	Wet	-	4
San Bernardino	100	120	Powdr	-	3
St-Cergue/St-Croix	5	15	Wet	-	5
St Moritz	50	80	Powdr	-	−6
Saas-Fee	30	100	Powdr	-	1
Samnaun	70	130	Powdr	-	−2
Scuol-Tarasp	40	80	Powdr	-	0
Soerenberg	10	40	Wet	-	5
Spluegen	60	100	Powdr	-	−8
Stoos	20	35	Wet	-	5
Wildhaus	5	20	Good	-	6
Verbier	10	60	Fair	-	6
Villars	10	40	Wet	-	2
Kleine Scheidegg	15	30	Wet	-	5
Zermatt	20	50	Powdr	-	−2

Seeking harmony on the park

Police tackle St Paul's and help bring equilibrium to an inflammable situation

It was the classic tragi-comic situation of any football match on a windy, pretty public park in Bristol. Halfway through the first half the visiting left back, weighty with Christmas indulgence, hugely sliced a miskick which rocketed into the net past his own dumbstruck goalkeeper.

As the anguished goalkeeper stared at his traitorous, prostrate collegue, a supporter from the home team called out with mocking sympathy and a thumbs-up gesture: " 'ey George," and the Somerset burr was unmistakable, " 'arrd luck, son!" The supporter was black. The goalkeeper was as miffed at the jest as the miskick.

We all enjoy the humour of such moments. What was especially significant about Wednesday's good natured encounter, as the strolling pensioners with their dogs paused to watch, was that, three-and-a-half years after the St Paul's riot, the match was between Bristol Police and the all-black St Paul's FC.

There is equilibrium in Bristol, it may be said: a working relationship of mutual understanding which is of credit to both "sides" in an inevitably socially inflammable situation. The substantial success being enjoyed by St Paul's FC over their first 18 months of formation is a major achievement in a 50 per cent black, down-at-heel ghetto, and is recognized as such by teachers, probation officers and police.

George Rowe, in goal, was once the community copper in St Paul's: members of both teams were on first-name terms not merely because the police's tackling is sometimes accompanied by a notebook. In the police dressing room beforehand, someone asked about personal valuables. Another voice said he had locked his in the car. "That was silly!" quipped a third.

Out on the pitch the teams largely personified their breed: the one steady, practical, occasionally hard, sensible within their limitations, taking the obvious short course, the other flamboyant, arguing among themselves, erratic, dexterous, occasionally sly. Both enjoyed the match, both wanted to win: and they shook hands afterwards.

The riot of 1980 was sparked by a drugs raid on the Black and White cafe in Grosvenor Road, the hub of the black community. Quickly many youngsters gathered in demonstration, the scene snowballed; looting, assault and police car vandalism followed, with the police temporarily outmanoeuvred. In the subsequent trials, all accused of conspiracy to riot were acquitted.

As John Carver, white local probation officer and popular vice-chairman of the new club, comments from experience: "Make an enemy of one man here and you have instantly made an enemy of 15 or 20 others. What the football club has achieved in an area of high unemployment and little opportunity is considerable – an upfront focal point that gains widespread recognition and gives our people a tangible, regular moment of realizable ambition.

The chairman is Adrian Smith, white headmaster, with a black wife, of Cabot primary school, where the coloured community use a £300,000 floodlit all-weather pitch for football and netball training, yet St Paul's FC was founded by Errol Wilson, a black, former Bath City midfield semi-professional whose quiet determination has brought some dignity to a group disparaged by the smarter districts such as Clifton.

Several *previous* black football clubs had quickly folded. As an aging policeman said in the dressing room: "Sure, they can play football pretty good. But it's the administration, paying the disciplinary fines and so-on. That's the problem."

St Paul's were beaten, first team and reserves, in their first season last year in the Bristol and Avon third division and in the Wednesday league, scoring over 100 goals to nine. This season, in the first division, they have lost once, regularly scored double figures and beat the champions, Clifton 4-2. They are in the running for nine trophies. They failed to gain admission to the Suburban League only because they did not sign the forms in time.

Bernice Cleverly, a solicitor's secretary, now handles administration; the left back, Wilby Williams, unemployed, is treasurer. Over 40 players pay £5 to join the squad, and £1 a match. Only five of Wednesday's team have jobs, including the centre back, Isaac Barrett, the Saturday first team captain who, with Wilson, was the most disciplined player. Mrs Cleverly reflects that the aggro they get from some opponents is because they are so good. "We'd be better off losing occasionally in a higher league."



John Carver improving relationships at a football match (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Mike Daley, a promising player, is suspended for six months by the club for overreacting to an alleged racial insult from a linesman, the *intention being to instil internal* discipline among others and forestall excessive penalties against the club by Gloucestershire FA at a forthcoming hearing. The ebullient Daley spent 30 minutes on the pavement outside the Black and White trying to talk himself back into Wednesday's team as players arrived in their posh but ancient BMWs.

Adrian Smith says: "The club has demonstrated *it's not* all bad down here, but being black they have to be super-good not to be branded simply for being black. Their commitment to the football has shown them its not worthwhile getting locked up. They are learning, remarkably, self-management."

There was no dissent to Daley's suspension, yet he was fanatically out there with the sponge, attending even the police.

With six minutes to go the Police were winning 2-1, weathering sustained but spendthrift attacks. Then Trevor Williams and the 60-goal Keith Miller snatched a late victory. The celebrations on and off the pitch were as spontaneously emotional as if Brazil had beaten Argentina. The Coppers were parrot-sick, especially their angular, Cleese-like midfield player, but they were cheerful enough by the time they reached the communal shower.

The improvement in St Paul's community, as one of the players pointed out, is that the police have learnt the importance of gentlemanly conduct in their own game off the pitch.

David Miller

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Don't let road hogs lose your cool

Some of you may like to join me in a new year's resolution not to lose my temper with the increasing number of road hogs who get their kicks from inconveniencing, not to say endangering, others on the road.

Hog number one is the driver who regards the breaking space betwwen you and the car in front as an invitation to overtake on the inside and nip in. Under normal conditions it is stupid enough but the driver of the red Vauxhall Cavalier who attempted it in the middle of snowstorm on the M5 recently was guilty of behaviour bordering on the criminally lunatic.

Hog number two is the driver who waits in the outside lane at traffic lights and only signals his intention to turn right when the lights change to green. He, (or she), is probably also the driver who leaves behind a queue of fuming frustrated motorists when he crawls along in the outside lane of a fast double-track road signalling his intention to turn right *half* a mile from the turning.

Hog number three, known as "Tailpipe Charlie", uses intimidatory tactics to force the driver in front to pull over. One of this breed recently got his comeuppance when the car in front stopped at a zebra crossing and he could not. The score was one smashed head lamp and wing against a slightly dented modern plastic bumper.

My invitation to readers to write in with their views on the renewed demands to increase *the 70 mph limit* on motorways has swamped my desk, and still the letters come. I shall deal with them shortly.

In the meantime I should like to focus on another aspect of motorway travel which demands action in 1984, the *blinding clouds of spray* thrown over three lanes by heavy trucks travelling at speed in wet conditions. The present primitive mudguards are useless. Indeed, some seem to channel water into even moer dense sheets.

The *prospect* of legislation to force truck manufacturers to fit anti-spray devices – and there are some very effective designs available – has become bogged down in the usual inability of interested parties to agree on standards.

My *inquiries* with truck manufacturers and accessory firms suggest that the whole business is being treated in far too leisurely a fashion. The prospect of more late-night journeys on motorways this winter is daunting enough but would be a little more endurable if it was the last winter I had to run the gauntlet of Spray Alley.

Posh Porsche

Some drivers of very high-performance cars like to proclaim their manliness by boasting of the hardships they endure in their quest for speed: rockhard seats to match equally solid suspension, minimal all round visibility, the agility of a cat to get into an out of the tiny cockpit, and more noise the better, particularly from the exhaust.

It is not just young people who seek the right partner to bolster this macho image. I know quite a few of pensionble age who force arthritic joints through the pain barrier to be one of the lads again.

Good luck to them. May they long retain their enthusiasm. I must seem just as ridiculous going playing golf on a snow covered course with so many clothes that I look like Michelin Man. But not on the road. There is sufficient stress in driving today without adding to it by being uncomfortable.

So what am I doing in a lowslung sports car capable of moving from zero to 62mph in 6.2 seconds with a top speed of 155mph? The answer is that it is Porsche's flagship, the 4.7 litre 928S Series 2, which is equipped as standard with leather upholstery, electrically adjusted seats, full air conditioning, and the most lavishly equipped, everything-to-hand driver's workplace imaginable.

The bit that makes macho man wince is that it is fitted with automatic transmission. It does not matter to *him that* this is the latest four-speed automatic which is 12 per cent lighter on fuel than the previous model or that four out of five 928 buyers prefer automatic to manual.

No machinery can match its unrivalled *driving* expertise. And, of course, he is partly right. No automatic is yet capable of living with the really skillful driver, but the latest ones come very close and they do make for relaxed driving in traffic.

The Series 2 is the first Porsche to be fitted with the ABS of anti-skid breaking system developed by Bosch. I have personal experience of its remarkable effect on a car under emergency breaking in a downpour.

Its ability to keep the car on a straight line was put to the test on a German autobarn a couple of months ago when I was driving a Mercedes 190E back from the Frankfurt Motor Show and almost became the rear gunner in a multi-vehicle pile-*up*.

Whether it was the way the ABS was set up on the 928 or simply that the system wanted bleeding I do not know, but I was disappointed with the lack of initial bite in the brakes. They fell some way short of the magnificent *brakes on* the Porsche 911 I tested recently.

That brings me to the question that always pops up when Porsche people are swopping notes. Which is the better car, the front engined 928 or the rear-engined 911? In my view they are such very *different* beasts that they appeal to quite separate groups of drivers.

The 928 with its better front/rear balance is the more predictable road holder and is quieter and more relaxing, leaving you fresher at the end of a long run. It also has more usable luggage room, although both are minimal.

But the classic 911 is to me what Porsche is all about. I prefer its shark-like appearance to the 928's rather bulbous outline and the scream of the flat six 3.1 litre engine just behind your head still makes the blood tingle.

Vital statistics

Model: Porsche 928S, Series 2
Price: £30,678
Engine: 4.7 litre, 8 cylinder
Performance: Maximum speed 155 mph, 0-62 mph 6.2 sec
Official consumption: Urban 16.9 mpg, 56 mph 32.8 mpg, and 75 mph 27 mpg
Length: 14.5ft
Insurance: Group 9

CRICKET: THREE RECORD-BREAKING TEST MATCH BATSMEN IN THE LIMELIGHT

Pakistan in trouble after Yallop's 268

From Ian Brayshaw, Melbourne

The truth of the old adage that cricket is a game that never should be taken for granted was bourne out yet again as a fascinating fourth day unfolded in the fourth Test match between Australia and Pakistan here yesterday.

Australia began the day at some sort of odds to lose the game, but, by dint of a never-say-die approach, ended it at similar odds to take the honours and go two up with one to play. Pakistan, having scored 470 in their first innings, began their second 85 in arrears and, with one day's play remaining, are still 47 behind with seven wickets in hand.

At the core of yesterday's remarkable turnobout the previous day, Yallop. Making light of that full day at the crease, and shrugging off the effects of hot weather and a *capricious wicket, he batted on* and on to record his first Test double century.

Along the way he figured in a second record partneship – this time for the seventh wicket – with an unlikely partner in Matthews, playing his first Test. The perky little New South Welshman, ostensibly chosen *for his spin* bowling talents, revealed rear skill and application in scoring 75 and putting on 185 with Yallop.

It was that defiant stand with turned the tide. Then, with the waters at last running their way, Australia sturck at the heart of the Pakistan batting to have the tourists seeking the sanctuary of stumps.

Lillee set things in motion once again for Australia. He bagan the second over of the innings by having Mohsin caught at short cover. Then it was Lawson's turn. He uprooted Qasim Omar's leg stump to have Pakinstan 18 for two. Soon after, Javed Miandad survived a confident leg-before appeal by Lawson, but seven minutes before stumps he almost "walked" before being caught out, leg-before to Lillee.

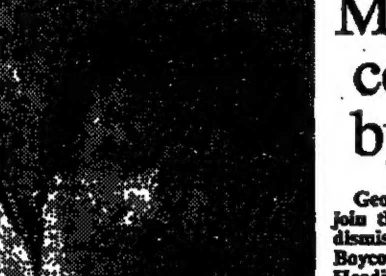
Yallop resumed with 173 next to his name and reached his double century, the fifth by an Australian in Tests on this ground, with a superbly controlled lofted drive off Qadir. What agony for the Pakistanis. Earlier in the tour Yallop had carved out 220 against them for Victoria.

Understandably, he was unable to repeat the impeccable timing and placement of hi strokes which marked his runs the previous day. Nonetheless, the 95 he added yesterday included more majestic strokes.

Matthews never waivered in his disciplined support of Yallop, showing maturity far beyond his experience, but blotting his copybook with a display of petulance after he had been given out leg-before. After he went, with the score *539, the Australian innings wound* up smartly.

Qadir finished the day with five wickets, but in truth the bowling honours belonged with Sarfraz. He finished with two for 106 from 51 overs of thoughtful swing and seam. With a little luck, he could have had far better figures.

In their efforts to force home the advantage of a huge first innings total, Pakistan had been frustrated by the make-up of their team, with just three front-line bowlers. Now they face the high hurdles again.





Yallop; majestic

PAKISTAN: first innings 470 (Mohsin Khan 152, Imran Khan 83)

Second innings

Mohsin Khan c Hughes b Lillee	3
Mudassar Nazar not out	11
Qasim Omar b Lawson	8
Javed Miandad lbw b Lillee	11
Abdul Qadir not out	0
Extras (lb)	4
Total (3 wkts)	38

Zaheer Abbas, Salim Malik, *Imran Khan, Sarfraz Nawaz, †Wasim Bari and Azeem Hafeez to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–3, 2–18, 3–37.

BOWLING: Lawson 7-4-7-1; Lillee 8-2-28-2; Maguire 2-1-1-0.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

K C Wessels, c Wasim Bari b Azeem	11
W B Phillips, lbw b Azeem	35
G N Yallop, c Wasim Bari b Sarfraz	268
*K J Hughes, lbw b Azeem	94
A R Border, lbw b Qadir	32
G S Chappell, c Salim b Qadir	5
†R W Marsh, c Mudassar b Qadir	0
G R J Matthews, lbw b Sarfraz	75
G F Lawson, c Mudassar b Qadir	0
J N Maguire, c Wasim Bari b Qadir	4
D K Lillee, not out	2
Extras (b 15, lb 9, w 2, nb 3)	29
Total	555

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–21, 2–70, 3–273, 4–342, 5–354, 6–354, 7–539, 8–540, 9–553, 10–555.

BOWLING: Sarfraz 51-12-106-2; Azeem 35-8-115-3; Qadir 54.3-12-166-5; Mudassar 20-0-76-0; Javed 5-0-16-0; Zaheer 22-5-42-0; Salim 2-1-10-0.

Umpires: A R Crafter and P McConnell.

Move to join committee by Boycott

Geoffrey Boycott has applied to join the Yorkshire committee who dismissed him two months ago. Boycott handed in his nomination at Headingley yesterday afternoon and afterwards he said that the application was not made on the spur of the moment, and was not intended to embarrass the club.

Boycott's attempt to become a member of the committee means that he will be trying to oust one of his few supporters. Boycott is to stand as a candidate for the Wakefield district where, ironically, he will oppose Dr John Turner, who was one of the eight members of the general committee who voted against his dismissal.

Boycott claims that he had no other option than to stand in Wakefield as that is the district covered by his home address

Reaction from other leading Boycott supporters were mixed. Bob Slicer, treasurer of the Yorkshire Members 1984 group, said: "I realize that Geoff has a lot to contribute to Yorkshire committee, but I have doubts about him standing against a man who is a supporter of his. Even so, I believe it's a genuine gesture by Geoff to help the club and to notify the public that he is prepared to help Yorkshire, even as a non-player."

If Boycott is elected he will stand as a committee member for three years. The special Yorkshire general meeting, set up after Boycott's dismissal on October 3, will be held in Harrogate on January 21. Boycott still hopes to be playing for Yorkshire in his testimonial season.

Gavaskar passes another milestone

Madras, (Reuter) – Sunil Gavaskar followed up his record 30th Test century by registering the highest score made by an Indian in Test cricket yesterday. After passing Sir Donald Bradman's mark of Test centuries, Gavaskar contributed 236 not out to india's total of 451 for eight declared – 138 ahead of the West Indies on first innings.

West Indies made a token reply of 64 for one and the sixth and final Test match, shortened by rain, ended in a draw with the West Indies 3-0 winners of the series.

The diminutive Gavaskar, who became first batsman from any country to score three double centuries against West Indies, surpassed by five runs the previous highest score by one of his compatriots, the great all-rounder Vinoo Mankad, against New Zealand in 1955.

Another record to fall was that for India's ninth wicket against West Indies. Gavaskar and the wicket-keeper Kirmani, unbeaten on 63, added 143 together – the previous est was 122 by Sardedai and Prasanna in Kingston in 1974.

The two wickets India lost yesterday fell in the first hour. Both were taken in identical *manner* by Marshall. Binny and Kapil Dev were caught at midwicket attempting to hook bouncers. Marshall, who finished with five for 72 also equalled a record for the highest number of wickets in a series. He collected 33, emulating the feat in 1950 of the left-arm spinner Valentine.

Binny was out with only seven added to the overnight score of 262. Kapil Dev struck four fours and a six before he fell. The partnership between Gavaskar and Kirmani lasted three hours but it could have ended at 365 when Gavakar, on 188, mistinued a hook off Roberts and was dropped by Dujon.

WEST INDIES: First innings 313 (P J Dujon 62)

WEST INDIES: Second innings

C G Greenidge not out	26
D L Haynes c Vengsarkar b Shastri	24
H A Gomes not out	10
Extras (l-b 2, n-b 2)	4
Total (1 wkt)	64

V A Richards, †P J Dujon, *C H Lloyd, W W Davis, M D Marshall, M A Holding, A M E Roberts and R A Harper did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–58.

BOWLING: Kapil Dev, 6-2-11-0; Binny, 2-0-14-0; Maninder Singh, 8-2-10-0; Shastri, 8-3-10-1; Yadav, 1-0-9-0; Kirmani, 1-0-4-0; Vengsarkar, 1-0-4-0.

India : First Innings

A D Gaekwad c Harper b Marshall	0
N S Siddhu c Richards b Roberts	20
D B Vengsarkar c Harper b Marshall	0
S M Gavaskar not out	236
A D Malhotra c sub b Harper	8
S Yadav c Dujon b Marshall	3
R J Shastri l-b-w b Davis	72
R M H Binny c sub b Marshall	1
* Kapil Dev c sub b Marshall	26
†S M H Kirmani not out	63
Extras (b 1, l-b 5, w 9, n-b 6)	21
Total (8 wkts dec)	451

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–0, 2–0, 3–54, 4–67, 5–92, 6–262, 7–269, 8–308.

BOWLING: Marshall 26-5-72-5; Roberts 28-4-81-1; Davis 30-4-75-1; Holding 26-2-85-0; Harper 42-7-105-1; Gomes 8-0-24-0.

Umpires: Swarup Kishan and M G Subramanium.

● Cape Town, (Reuter) – Lawrence Rowe, the captain of the unofficial West Indian touring team, criticized the wicket which has been prepared for the second four-day match against South Africa, starting at Newlands here today. Slow, brown *wickets have been common* throughout the tour in an attempt to nullify the visitors' fast bowling, but the result has been drawn matches in all but one of the three-day games.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM £3.25 a line (minimum 3 lines)

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LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90:1.

BIRTHS

ADLINGTON – On December 25th to Carolyn (nee Bromley) and Jonathan, a son, Edward Nathaniel, a brother to Emily and Tamsin.

BAYLY – On 27 December 1983 at Newcastle upon Tyne to Julia and Peter Bayly – a Son.

DEVONSHIRE. – On 24th December, to Gillian and Jervis – a son, Robert Edward Jervis, a brother for Charlotte.

DEATHS

KEY – On December 23, peacefully at St Lukes Hospital, Guildford, Daphne Millicent, aged 52, beloved wife of David, mother of Wendy, Jonathan and Jane, sister of Kenneth Radford and Elizabeth Willett. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium at 3pm today Friday, December 30. Family flowers only please, to J. Corringe & Son, 56 Hare Lane, Farncombe. GU7 3EF. Any donations to cancer research.

LYON – HAZEL AMELIA. Dearly loved mother of Marcus, on 26th December after a long illness bravely borne. Funeral family only. No flowers please, but donations may be made to the Westminster Hospital, Linear Accelerator Appeal, c/o Doctor R. H. Phillips, Radio Therapy Department, Westminster Hospital, London SW1. Date of memorial service will be announced later.

MARTIN KNILL. – Formerly Barnes. On Thursday, December 22 at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, Violette, of the Guide International Service and beloved wife of Sir John Knill Baronet and mother of Tom Jenkyn Knill. A memorial service will be held in the church of St Nicholas Bathampton, County of Avon at 12 noon on Saturday, January 14. Donations for charities to Mrs. Corn-Halligan, c/o National Westminster Bank, 58 Coombe Lane, SW20.

ORGAN – On December 23rd, Lt. Colonel Derek Cyprian MC, late 5 RGR (F.F.) and 6 AEO. G.R. Beloved husband of Sheila and father of Judith. Funeral at Longbridge Deverill Parish church at 1.30 pm on Wednesday January 4th, followed by cremation at Salisbury at 3pm. Donations to Gurkha Welfare Fund, Lansdowne House. Family flowers only to Curtis & Son, Warminster.

PARCELL – on December 24, 1983, Margaret Jean, wife of the late Ronnie Parcell of Mariner's Oak, Wisborough Green. Funeral service at Chichester Crematorium 3on Wednesday, January 4, 1984 at 3.30pm.

PATERSON. – On December 27th, suddenly, Dr. Arthur Spencer Paterson, beloved husband of Antoinette. Funeral at St. Colomba's, Pont Street, SW1 on Thursday, January 5th, at 11.00 a.m. followed by private cremation.

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AND THAT IT HAS BEEN ORDERED that service on you of this Writ of Summons in the said action be effected by this advertisement. If you desire to defend the said action you must within 14 days from the publication of this advertisement inclusive of the day of such publication file an acknowledgement of service at the Liverpool District Registry India Buildings Water Street Liverpool 2 in default of such acknowledgement such order will be made and proceedings taken as the Court may think fit

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MR JUSTICE NOURSE
IN THE MATTER OF
THOMAS TILLING PLC
and
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948

Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice Chancery Division dated the 19th December, 1983, CONFIRMING the REDUCTION of the CAPITAL of the above-named Company from £260,000,000 to £254,846,146.20 and the Minute approved by the Court shewing with respect to the Share Capital of the Company as altered, the several particulars required by the above Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 21st December, 1983.

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Notice is hereby given by the Director of Urban Services, Hong Kong that a service will be conducted by the Dean of St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, the Very Rev. Paul Clasper, Ph. D. on January 12, 1984 at 3 p.m. at the Hong Kong Cemetery, Happy Valley, Hong Kong, for the deposit of remains exhumed in connection with the construction of the Aberdeen Tunnel, into a new ossuary.

These skeletal remains were exhumed in 1975 from 3 467 graves dating from between 1863 and 1971, although most date back to the 19th Century. A full list of all the graves affected is contained in the 28th November 1975 issue of the Hong Kong Government Gazette. Copies of the list are available for scrutiny at the Hong Kong Government Office, 6 Grafton Street, London W1X 3LB, telephone 01-499-9821.

Relatives and friends of the deceased are invited to participate in the service.

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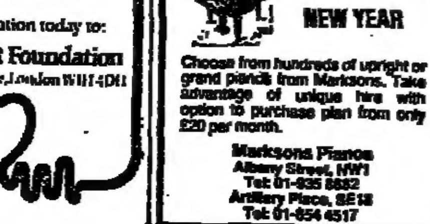
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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM: News and information, available on every television set.
6.30 Breakfast Time: with Frank Bough, Fern Britton. Today's "specials" include Pop News (between 7.45 and 8.00) and Audrey Eyton's Slim and Shine phone-in (8.30 - 9.00).
9.00 The New Adventures of Flash Gordon: cartoon version of the cartoon strip; 9.25 Why Don't You . . . ? From Belfast; 9.50 Wacky Races: cartoon; 10.00 Play Chess: includes a boys v girls challenge match; 10.10 Jackanory: Andrew Burt reads more from Elizabeth Renier's The Lightkeepers (r); 10.25 Paddington: another tale about the bear; 10.30 Play School: The Story of Christmas; 10.55 Play Ideas: with Carol Chell.
11.05 Little Misses and the Mister Men: for the toddlers; 11.20 Smoke: Second and final part to the Walt Disney film about a secretly-kept dog; 12.05 Look Back with Noakes: The cycle marathon called the Milk Race; 12.30 News After Noon; 12.45 Tom and Jerry: cartoons.
1.00 Bonanza; Venerable western series, with Lorne Greene and Dan Blocker.
1.45 Film: Khartoum (1966) A reconstruction of the battle of wills, in the 1880s, between General Gordon (Charlton Heston, with subdued American accent) and the Mahdi (Laurence Olivier, in dark make-up and looking not unlike his Othello). Stern stuff, with vigorous action on the battlefields. With Ralph Richardson, Richard Johnson and Nigel Green.
3.50 Goodbye to the Good Old Days: A behind-the-scenes look at the City Variety Leeds, where the long run of televised music-hall shows has come to its end. Among those taking part are Frankie Vaughan, Roy Hudd, Les Dawson Larry Grayson and Barry Cryer.
4.20 Laurel and Hardy: unworthy cartoon version of the film original; 4.25 Jackanory: Part three of Thurber's The 13 Clocks; 4.40 Yogi Bear: old cartoon, revived for Christmas; 4.45 Take Hart: A history of numerals, with the clever Tony Hart touch; 5.05 Cheggers Plays Pop: Pop show, with Keith Chegwin as MC. Items from Bernadette Nolan, Bucks Fizz and others.
5.40 News; 5.50 Cartoon: Lonesome Strangers; 6.00 Cartoons.
6.20 Film: Warlords of Atlantis (1978) Fantasy about the lost city where, unaccoutably, dinosaurs have survived. With Doug McClure and Cyd Charisse, and a giant octopus.
7.45 The Superstars: The Townsend Thoresen Past Masters. The great names include David Hemery, Ron Clarke, Emlyn Hughes, Alan Ball, David Duckham, Andy Ripley, Ken Buchanan and Chester Barnes. The programme comes from the High Wycombe Sports Centre, and it is introduced by David Vine and Ron Pickering.
8.45 News: with Nicholas Witchell.
9.00 Waters of the Moon: Penelope Keith and Virginia McKenna in N C Hunter's much-broadcast play set in a small country hotel in Devon during a Christmas holiday in the early 1950s. Others in a strong cast: Ronald Pickup, Geoffrey Palmer, Dilys Laye, Joan Sims and Richard Vernon. (See Choice).
10.40 Carrot's Lib: A peep into 1984, and a wry look back at 1983 before it gives up the ghost. With Jasper Carrott, Christopher Barrie, Nick Maloney and others.
11.25 Film: The Midnight Man (1974) Complicated thriller, with Burt Lancaster (he also directed the film) as a college security man who becomes involved in a student's murder. With Susan Clark and Cameron Mitchell. Ends at 1.25.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: presented by Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Today's "specials" include Pick of the Year (6.40 and 8.33) visit to a celebrity's home-town (7.45) Weekend TV (8.35) and Diana Dors's advice spot (8.45) Regular items include morning papers (6.25), Mad Lizzie (6.45 and 8.55) and Competition Time (8.25).
9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland:

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. Followed by: Sesame Street with the Muppets; 10.25 Cartoon Time: with Sylvester and Tweety Bird; 10.40 Film: The Invisible Man (1975) Made-for-TV drama (not based on the H. G. Wells classic) starring David McCallum who wants to keep his invisibility secret out of the Pentagon's hands.
12.00 We'll Tell you a Story: with Christopher Lillicrap (r); 12.10 Rainbow: repeated at 4.00; 12.30 Survival: The Bird with Two Hats. How the Blackheaded gull managed to escape extinction.
1.00 News; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Wells Cathedral: The Prince of Wales narrates this film about the architectural masterpiece in Somerset, now being extensively restored.
2.00 Film: Mission Galactica: The Cylon Attack (1979) Made-for-TV space adventure yarn, with robots menacing the Earth. With Richard Hatch, Lorne Greene and Dirk Benedict.
4.00 Children's ITV: Rainbow (r); 4.20 Sooty: Puppet show, with Duncan Goodhew among the non-puppets; 4.45 Fortress Falklands – a Child's Eye View: The post-Falklands war story that has not been told before. What life is like for the islands' youngsters; 5.15 Peter and the Wolf: unusual interpretation of the popular Prokofiev work.
5.45 News; 6.00 Thames news headlines; 6.15 Police 5: with Shaw Taylor.
6.30 The Young Doctors: Australian hospital life drama .
7.00 Family Fortunes: the Bartrams from Frome take on the Mobbses from Kings Heath, Birmingham.
7.30 Film: Live a Little, Steal a Lot: (1974) Based-on-fact thriller about two of the world's most accomplished jewel thieves (played by Robert Conrad, Don Stroud) who are planning the most audacious theft of their lives – priceless gems in the New York Museum of Natural History.
9.15 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet: More about the Geordie "brickies" working in Germany. Dennis (Tim Healy), now divorced, has found consolation in the arms of Dagmar (Brigitte Kahn), a secretary on the constuction site. Fate foils his intention to keep the romance secret.
10.15 News from ITN.
10.30 Tom Jones – Here Where the Heart Is: An account of the huge explosion of emotion which greeted the Welsh singer's first concert platform appearance in his homeland since leaving his Pontypridd home for the United Stated in 1974. This is the opening concert of his British tour. It took place in Cardiff. As well as being joined by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir, he sings many of his favourite solos.
11.30 To Win at All Costs: A film describing the process by which Australia succeeded in wresting the America's Cup from the grip of the Americans after 132 years. The summer of 1983 made yachting history. At the end of tonight's film, we hear the Night Thoughts of Max Sinclair, assistant director, Christian Centre, Hildenborough Hall, Kent.



Virginia McKenna and Penelope Keith: Waters of the Moon (BBC 1, 9.00pm)

CHOICE

● "Dull? This is Ditchwater-Hall", says the young daughter apropos of the Dartmoor hotel for the impoverished gentility that her mother runs in N C Hunter's WATERS OF THE MOON (BBC 1, 9.00pm). Dullness does, indeed, reach its apogee in this isolated establishment (made even more isolated by a heavy Christmas Week snowfall). The guest list: one dozing colonel; one gloomy, exiled Austrian; one chocolate-guzzler; one sour lady in reduced circumstances. The managerial list: one sickly son, one over-solicitous mother; one love-lorn daughter. Then, like some meteor, The Good Life flashes through the hotel gloom; one rich and noisy wife, one husband, one daughter, all forced to seek shelter in the hotel when their Rolls decides to pack up for the holiday period. Mr Hunter's warmly human play is not only about the conflict between two life-styles. It is also about the awful ease with which people can sink into social senility, and about how difficult it is to extricate them. The longueurs in their lives occasionally seep into the character of tonight's production, though never, it must be stressed, when Penelope Keith (as the eruption in furs) is on the scene. Miss Keith once again assumes her brisk Margo Leadbeatter voice and general demeanour. There are moments when one wishes she would try the soft pedal for a change. As for the snow, it looks so real that it is only the actors' smokeless breath that gives the show away.

● A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE WORLD (BBC 2, 7.30pm) attempts the impossible and comes within an ace of achieving it. In under 90 minutes, it encircles the globe and comes back with what sounds like comprehensive and irrefutable evidence to confirm both our best hopes and worst fears about things like population growth and the medical and economic health of nations. But the wonder of this Global Report special does not lie so much in the amplitude of its statistics as in the strength of the stories of 10 men and women it has managed to uncover. The Liberian rubber worker turned rice-grower, for example. The Pacific Islander displaced by nuclear missiles. And the Colombian mother caught up in what seems a hopeless fight to put an end to the appalling infant mortality in the Andean village in which she lives.

BBC 2

1.40 Film: The Pirate (1948) One of the gems in the crown of the MGM musical – a vividly staged and tune-packed romantic comedy (songs by Cole Porter including Be A Clown, Love of My Life, and Nina,) co-starring Gene Kelly as the travelling player who, to win the heart of a well-bred girl on a 19th-century Caribbean island, Judy Garland poses as a notorious pirate. Directed by Vincent Minnelli.
3.20 Machines in Motion: The fourth of Professor Leonard Maunder's Royal Institution Christmas lectures for Young People. Today's subject: Under Control.
4.20 Romany: A tribute (much-deserved) to the Rev George Bramwell Evens who as "Romany" was one of the gentle pillars of Children's Hour on BBC radio. His was the alfresco voice to beat them all. The part of "Romany" is played today by Peter Whitbread.
4.50 Film: Notorious (1946) Hitchcock thriller, with Gary Grant as the American secret service man who hopes to put paid to the antics of the head of a neo-Nazi ring in South America (Claude Rains) by getting the daughter of an alleged traitor (Ingrid Berman) to marry the Nazi. A ratting good yarn.
6.30 George Orwell: The Road to Wigan Pier. In the second of Arena's four films about the writer, we learn about the forging of his first links with the working classes. 7.25 News.
7.30 A Year in the Life of the World: A Global Report, written by Peter Adamson, with Peter France's narration (See Choice).
9.00 A Clip Round the Year: Comedy show about which little is being revealed except that it stars the up-and-coming John Sessions.
9.30 Film: Billion Dollar Brain (1967) Breathless, very complicated Len Deighton thriller, over-directed by Ken Russell, with seedy secret agent Harry Palmer (Michael Caine) involved in an American megalomaniac's bid to take over the world. With Karl Malden, Francoise Dorleac, Oscar Homolka and Ed Begley: 11.15 News.
11.20 International Basketball: Defending champions Maccabi Tel Aviv take on all comers in the Philips World Invitational Club Championships, at Crystal Palace. Commentary by Stuart Storey and Tom Wiseman.
11.55 Film: Animal Crackers (1930*) The Marx Brothers' second film – the one in which Groucho, memorably, sang "Hurray for Captain Spaulding", Chico played Sugartime, and Margaret Dumont was more vigorously manhandled than in any Marx Brothers film. The plot is vaguely to do with the theft of a famous painting at a country house party. Directed by Victor Heerman. Ends at 1.35am.

CHANNEL 4

12.25 Animated Fables: Cambridge Animation Festival director Antoinette Moses introduces the Soviet cartoon Hedgehog in the Mist, and the American short It's So Nice to Have a Wolf Around the House.
12.50 Burra Sahib: A day in the lives of three men who run the last surviving taxidermist business in India (in Mysore).
2.00 Athletics: 1983 – The Best Year Yet. A reminder (as if we needed one) of Daley Thompson's and Steve Cram's successes in the first-ever World Championships.
3.00 Film: Odette (1950*) Stirring reconstruction of the true story of the Frenchwoman, Odette Churchill, captured and tortured by the Germans while working for the French Resistance during the Second World War, and awarded the George Cross for bravery. One of Anna Neagle's best screen performances. With Trevor Howard, Marius Goring and Peter Ustinov. Directed by Herbert Wilcox.
5.15 Muscle Beach: Entertaining short about excessive physical exertion beside the sea. Directed by Joseph Strick .
5.30 The New Year's Tube: Bumper edition of the pop music show. Cast includes Culture Club, U2, Wham, Public Image Ltd, and Simple Minds.
7.00 Channel Four News. Includes a look back on the big news stories of 1983.
7.30 Right to Reply: An eagle-eyed examination of the past year's output on Channel Four – from the viewers' viewpoint.
8.00 Unforgettable Christmas Show: Nostalgia unlimited, with hits from the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies. With the Beverley Sisters, Coast to Coast, Clive Dunn, and the dance group Lipstick.
9.00 Paul Hogan's England: The second of two programmes which the Australian funny man recorded during a visit to this country. His guests are Dire Straits, Tim Brooke-Taylor and Paul Young.
10.00 Land of the Lakes: The last of Melvyn Bragg's three films about the Lake District shows how tourists completed the job that painters and writers started in past centuries – the discovery of this huge area of natural beauty. The question posed is: are the tourists, by sheer weight of numbers, destroying what they seek to enjoy?
10.55 Max Boyce Meets the Dallas Cowboys: What happened when the Welsh troubadour briefly became a member of the famous American football team. (r).
11.55 Film: The Old Dark House (1932*) Creaky old horror movie, based on a J B Priestley novel, about a bunch of travellers stranded in a sinister mansion in Wales. With Charles Laughton, Boris Karloff, Melvyn Douglas. Director: James (Frankenstein) Whale. Ends at 1.15.

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 Daybreak with Charles Colvile. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News Summary.
7.30 Today, including 7.30 News Summary. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.00 Today's Papers. 8.25 Sport.
8.30 Quote . . . Unquote.18.59 Weather; Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs: Wildlife photographers Cindy Buxton and Annie Price talk to Roy Plomley and pick their favourite records.
10.00 News; Travel; Points of Departure with Christopher Matthews.
10.15 Crotal and White. In the last of five programmes Finlay J. Macdonald continues his reminiscences of a Hebridean childhood.
10.30 Morning Story: 'A Terrible Night' by Anton Chekhov. Read by David Ashford.
10.45 Jot to the World (5) God Made Man. Words and music of Christmas. †
11.00 News; Lorna Doone by R. D. Blackmore (last of five parts. (r) †
12.00 News; Commissioner Catherine. Catherine Bramwell-Booth (100 years old last July), granddaughter of the founder of the Salvation Army talks to Ted Harrison about her life and memories. (r)
12.30 Just a Minute. †12.55 Travel; Weather; Programme News.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 The Fall of the Kingdom of Oude. Gerald Roberts's account of the annexation of Oude by Lord Dalhousie, Governor General of India in the middle of the last century.
2.45 Bolshoi Tyshinsky No 26 with Bill Campbell (last of four programmes).
3.00 News; Afternoon Theatre: '300 Murders' A detective comedy by Colin Free. A real-life murder story ends the run of fictional yarns that is the stock in trade of an adventure magazine called Sunny Boy. With David March and Margot Boyd.
4.00 Down Your Way. Highlights from Brian Johnston's year of British travel.
4.40 Story Time: 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame (7). Read by Bernard Cribbins.
5.00 News Magazine.
5.35 Elkins in Israel. The fifth of six talks by Michael Elkins (5) The Granite Grandmother. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather; Programme news.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News.
6.15 The Best of Maigret (5) Maigret and the Young Girl. (r) With Maurice Denham as the detective, and Michael Gough as Simenon. †
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 The Songwriters' Guide to Victorian Sensations with Roy Hudd and Charles West, singing songs of a gaslit age.
8.00 Coward at Christmas 'Design for Living' by Noel Coward. A repeat broadcast of the production starring Anna Massey (as Gilda), John Rye (Otto), Martin Jarvis (Leo) and John Rowe (Ernest).
9.30 Kaleidoscope: A profile of Julie Andrews. The star is heard in conversation with Michael Billington. 9.58 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight: News.
10.30 Stalling Out. Monty Modlyn examines the life of a market trader.
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: 'The Poison Belt' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (5). Read by Peter Pacey.
11.15 W. C. Fields. Marvin Kane tells his story and includes excerpts from some of the most famous moments from his films.
11.30 The First Time by Steve Taylor. Comedy with Christian Rodska as the man whose first romantic entanglement (Norma Cohen) proves too much for him.
12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. 12.15 Shipping Forecast.
England VHF as above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.0pm Listening Corner. 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: part one. MacCunn's overture Land of the Mountain and Flood; Saint-Saens's Piano Conc No 4, with Pascal Rogé, soloist; Britten's Scottish Ballad (Peter Donohoe and Philip Fowke, pianos).†
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Copland's An Outdoor Overture, Hanson's Symphony No 2, and Arnold's Four Cornish Dances.†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Respighi. The overture Belfagor, Five Pieces for Violin and Piano (Robert Kunz/Rudolf am Bach) and the Symphonic Poem Pines of Rome.†
10.00 Schubert and Bartok: Martin Roscoe, piano, plays Schubert's Three Impromptus (Klavierstucke, D 946) and Bartok's 15 Hungarian Peasant Songs, and Sonata, 1926.†
11.00 Langham Chamber Orchestra: Josef Myslivecek's Symphony in D, and Antonin Reicha's Symphony in E flat, Op 41.†
11.40 The Feminine Muse: with Brian Rayner Cook (baritone) and Roger Vignoles (piano). Songs by Elizabeth Poston, Priaulx Rainier (Cycle for Declamation), Mary Plumstead (incl Love for such a cherry lip, and Full Fathom Five).†
12.15 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra: with Dmitri Alexeev (piano). Brahms's Variations on the St Anthony Chorale, and Liszt's Piano Concerto No 1 Part one.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.
1.20 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra: part two. Berlioz's Symphonie fantastique.†
2.15 Piano Trios: the Raphael Trio play Haydn's Trio in E flat major, H XV 29, and Brahms's Trio in C minor, Op 101.†
3.00 Ravel: the LSO and Chorus of Covent Garden in the ballet Daphnis and Chloë.†
4.00 Choral Evensong: from Carlisle Cathedral. The organist: Andrew Seivewright.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Orchestras on their Home Ground: Spain and France. Carlos Surinach's Sinfonietta Flamenca; Falla's El amor brujo; Berlioz's Royal Hunt and Storm; Messiaen's Hymne au St Sacrement; and Debussy's La Mer. The orchestras: Phil Orch of Madrid, New Phil Orch of French Radio, Phil Orch of French Radio, and National Orch of French Radio. †
6.30 Music for Four Guitars: Los Romeros play the last movement of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 3 (arr Knowles), Telemann's Concerto in G (arr Celin Romero), last movement of Bach's Brandenberg Concerto No 6 (arr Angel Romero) and Torroba's Sonata Trianera.†
7.00 Crystal Visions: Stephen Games assesses the creer of the architectural theorist Walter Gropius. Contributions from (among others) Max Fry, Norman Foster, Chip Harkness and I M Pei.
7.45 Brahms: A German Requiem. Performed by BBC Welsh SO, BBC Welsh Choir, Swansea Bach Choir, Ardwyn Singers, Cardiff Polyphonic Choir, and soloists Rosalind Plowright and Benjamin Luxon.†
9.00 On and Off Stage: Poetry about plays, players and playhouses, read by Jill Balcon, Hugh Dickson and Gary Watson, and chosen by Graham Webster.
9.30 Haydn and Beethoven Sonatas: Haydn's Sonata in C minor, H XVI 20; and Beethoven's in D major, Op 10, No 3.†
10.15 Thai Classical Music: The Thai Classical Music Group of Srinakarin Wirot University, Prasammitr (Bangkok).†
11.00 The Complete Webern: Five Sacred Songs, Op 15, and Variations for Orchestra, Op 30, with Phyllis Bryn-Julson, soprano and the London Sinfonietta.†
11.15 News. Until 11.18.

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 8.00 and 9.00pm) major bulletins 7.00, 8.00am, 1.00, 5.00pm and 12.00 midnight headlines 5.30, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30am (mf/mw). 5.00am Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00am Music while you Work: Iain Sutherland and his Orchestra.† 12.30 John Craven.† 2.02 Sports Desk. 2.30 Ed Stewart.† 3.02 Sports Desk. 4.00 David Hamilton.† 4.02, 5.30 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunn incl.† 6.45 Sports and Classified Results (mf only). 7.30 Male Voice Choir Competition† 8.15 Friday Night is Music Night: from the Hippodrome, Golders Green.† 9.30 The Mike Sammes Singers.† 9.57 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Spinners: with guests including Isla St Clair.† 10.30 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Night Owls with Dave Gelly.† 2.00-5.00 Bill Rennells presents You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 8.30pm and then at 10.0 and 12.0 midnight (mf/mw) 5.00am Adrian John 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Simon Bates 11.30 Mike Smith, incl. 12.30 Newsbeat 2.00 Gary Davies 4.30 Peter Powell's select-a-disc 5.30 Newsbeat 83. Frank Partridge with a round-up of the day's news, followed by a review of the year's top news stories. 7.00 Andy Peebles 9.00-12.00 The Friday Rock Show with Tommy Vance (stereo from 10.00) VHF RADIOS 1 and 2 5.00am With Radio 2 10.00pm With Radio 1 12.00-5.00am With Radio 2

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Breakthrough. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The English Air. 8.30 Times Remembered. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Album Time. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 The Stock Market. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 Radio Theatre. 2.15 Letterbox. 2.30 John Peel. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 As I Saw It. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Science in Action. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Sarah and Company. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four hours. 8.15 Music Now. 9.45 The Painter of Signs. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 A Lift in the Rain. 11.30 George Orwell and 1984. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 What's New. 1.15 As I Saw It. 1.45 Classical Record Review. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 A Closer Look. 3.50 Recording of the Week. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Let There Be Drums. 5.45 The World Today.
All times in GMT

BBC 1 Wales: 12.42-12.45pm News of Wales. 5.50-6.00 Wales today. 1.25am News of Wales. Scotland: 12.40-12.45pm Scottish news. 5.50-6.00 Scottish news. 1.25am - Close. Northern Ireland: 12.42-12.45pm Northern Ireland news. 5.50-6.00 Northern Ireland news. 1.25am Northern Ireland news headlines. England: 5.50-6.00pm London; Cartoon "Lonesome Stranger". 1.25am Closedown.

S4C Starts 12.20pm Stori Sbri. 12.35 Film: Holiday Inn (Bing Crosby). 2.15 Gymnastics. 3.10 Land of the Lakes. 4.05 Animated fables. 4.35 Lowri A'r Capten. 4.50 Campeto. 5.25 Film: Spring in Park Lane (Anna Neagle). 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.15 Sion a Sian. 7.45 Pobol Y Cwm. 8.15 Y Byd Yn Ei Le. 9.00 Pattern of Roses. 10.25 From Mao to Mozart. 11.50 Rockers Roadshow. 12.30am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 112.30pm-1.00 Night the Animals Talked. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00-7.00 All Kinds of Country. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Streets of San Francisco. 12.30am Closedown.

TVS As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Full Life. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.30-7.00 Friday Sportshow. 11.30 Sweeney. 12.30am Company, Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

ANGLIA As London except: 10.25am-10.40 Puff the Magic Dragon. 12.30pm-1.00 Hands. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 11.30 Film: Scobie Malone (Jack Thompson). 1.15am It's in the Cards, Closedown.

TSW 10.25am-10.40 Puff and the Incredible Mr Nobody. 12.30pm-1.00 Big Horns at Beauty Creek. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Diff'rent Strokes. 12.30am Postscript, closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 10.25-12.00 Film: Captain's Table (John Gregson). 1.20pm-1.30 News and Lookaround. 6.00 Northern Life. 6.20-7.00 New Year Weekend Lift-off. 10.32 Friday Live. 12.00 Tom Jones. 1.00am Christian Calendar. Closedown.

HTV As London except: 10.25am-10.40 Puff the Magic Dragon. 12.30pm-1.00 A Family Affair. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 Crime Casebook. 11.30 Sweeney. 12.30am Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-7.00 Wales at Six.

GRANADA As London except: Starts 12.30pm-1.00 Whose Baby? 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 5.15-5.45 Beverly Hillbillies. 6.00 Granada Reports. News. 6.05-7.00 Weekend. 11.30 Film: Deadly Affair (James Mason). 1.30 am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: Starts 10.25am-10.40 Puff the Magic Dragon. 12.30pm-1.00 Survival of the Fittest. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Dot and the Kangaroo. 3.30-4.00 Peter and the Wolf. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00-7.00 News. 11.30 Film: I, Monster (Christopher Lee). 12.55am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: Starts 10.25am-1040 Puff and the Incredible Mr Nobody. 12.30pm-1.00 Peter and the Wolf. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00-7.00 Calendar and Sport. 11.30 Dear Detective. 12.30 am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 10.25-10.40 Puff and the Incredible Mr Nobody. 12.30pm-1.00 Night the Animals Talked. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 12.35am Reflections. 12.35 News, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Day Ahead. 10.25-10.40 Puff and the Incredible Mr Nobody. 12.30pm-1.00 Hands. 1.20-1.30 Lunchtime. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.45-7.00 Advice. 11.30 Question of Mission. 12.00 News, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: Starts 12.00-12.10 pm We'll Tell You a Story. 12.30-1.00 Big Homes at Beauty Creek. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.55-7.00 What's On Where. 12.30 am Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 10.25am-10.40 Puff the Magic Dragon. 12.30pm-1.00 Night the Animals talked. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.15-7.00 Lookaround the Year. 12.25am News, Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN. † Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

Entertainments

US brushes aside pleas over Unesco

Continued from page 1

work very hard. Others do not, and we know because their chairs are empty."

The Paris staff of about 2,600 is paid well. A departmental director has a tax-free salary of about 30,000 francs (£2,500) a month, as well as such extras as a duty-free allowance of alcohol and petrol, and educational grants for children.

Nor are officials always the best people available. A widespread criticism of Unesco and Mr Mbow, who comes from Senegal, is that a rigid quota system allows less-qualified people from the Third World to be hired and promoted ahead of Westerners.

An American official said: "Unesco is not meant to be a club for Third World people too often hired because of their political pull."

In Moscow, the party daily *Pravda* condemned the American withdrawal, saying Washington had become "infuriated" only because it could not impose its will on the agency.

The United States disliked Unesco for its criticism of Israel and South Africa and its attempt to set up a news organization independent of Western news agencies. The decision to set up the news organization, *Pravda* said, was taken "by an overwhelming majority of its member states with the aim of opposing the dominance of the imperialist countries in the field of international information".

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials in Tokyo said they hoped Washington would change its mind, adding that if the United States withdrew Unesco would face financial difficulties.

But a Unesco spokesman in Bangkok said US withdrawal would not affect most aid programmes to developing countries.

In London, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is to be urged on by Mr Warren Hawksley, Conservative MP for the Wrekin division of Shropshire, to end Britain's 5 per cent financial contribution to Unesco.



A sentimental journey from airline boss to Mr Chips







Three Mr Chips from the past: Robert Donat (top); Sir John Mills (centre), and Peter O'Toole. Right, the new Mr Chips, Roy Marsden, with his stage wife Katherine next to him, played by Jill Meacher.

By Rupert Morris

Roy Marsden, aged 42, best known as Ruskin, the tough company boss in the popular series *Airline*, will play the infinitely more lovable character of Mr Chips, the hero of James Hilton's novel, in a television series to be broadcast by the BBC at the end of January.

Goodbye Mr Chips was made into a film in the 1930s, with Robert Donat in the starring role, and was revived as a film musical in 1969, with Peter O'Toole and Petula Clark.

Last year Sir John Mills recreated the role on the stage at the Chichester Festival Theatre.

The story of *Goodbye Mr Chips* is that of a schoolmaster whose career straddles the First World War and whose wife dies in childbirth. It is a touching, sentimental tale and represents a new departure for Marsden. His most recent role after *Airline* was in independent television's *Reilly, Ace of Spies*.

The new series, which will be shown on BBC1 on Sundays from the end of January, was filmed at Repton and Christ's College, Brecon.

Marsden is married to the actress Polly Hemingway.

Policies for jobs needed, says Walker

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Peter Walker one of the leading opponents in the Cabinet of hardline Treasury economic policies, yesterday voiced the hope that 1984 would be the year in which unemployment would begin to decline substantially.

In a new year message to the Tory Reform Group, of which he is president, Mr Walker indicated that the internal debate among senior Conservatives will continue with equal vigour next year when he emphasized the need for policies which would reduce the jobless total.

Ministers including Mrs Margaret Thatcher have been reticent about talking about the timing of a fall in unemployment. Mr Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, made a strong plea for policies to promote expansion and to help the inner cities.

He included among his wishes for 1984 "that there will be an expansion in world trade and a performance by Britain better than that of our competitors that will bring real hope to the unemployed and that 1984 will be the year in which unemployment figures begin to decline substantially".

He also wanted the Government to achieve a "well-coordinated and more successful" programme to revitalize the inner cities and to meet the problems of deprivation and despair that still existed in the worst areas.

Mr Walker called on the Western world to create a new relationship with the potentially expanding economies of the future.

Letter from Berlin

Up against the Wall in pleasure's pursuit

Nightlife in East Berlin is as daunting as the day-life, but there are those, with decathlon stamina, who can squeeze pleasure out of the most unpromising terrain; a wet Sunday afternoon, say, in Dnepropetrovsk.

Observe the Saturday evening flow through the Berlin Wall: young workers, in natty suits, from Turkey, Morocco, above all Yugosalvia, flee their depressing, underpaid lives in the low-rent districts of West Berlin to visit the East, which they treat with the abandon of playboys, ordering Crimean chanpagne, trapping and being entrapped by the Holly Golightlys, the sharp end of socialist maidenhood, in the cafes of Unter den Linden. This miraculous conversion from the neglected margin of West German society to the expensive, sought-after navel of East Germany, through the looking-glass, begins at the bureau de change in the Zoo station.

Here, 50 West German Marks (£12), a modest sum, buys 250 East German Marks, a ransom that is smuggled (usually in the shoe) through the checkpoints at the Berlin Wall. The official exchange rate – one West German Mark = one East German Mark – is treated as a joke. The bubble bursts at midnight, when all but the Yugoslavs (who as fellow socialists can stay the night) have to return.

The night begins early on both sides of Friedrichstrasse, the once-great street that is now divided by the Wall. In a pub on the western half, Saturday night begins at about 5, when the football results start coming through the radio on the counter. Cigarette (Lux filter, HB) smoke begins to accumulate, the pinball machine flashes "tilt" and the talk is of goals and leagues, of other people's money, of a card game called skat.

Two hundred metres down the road and a perilous pole vault over the wall, the smoke is denser (F-6, Sport filter, Bulgarian tobacco), the juke box is broken and the talk is of football teams called Dynamo and about a match just seen on Western television.

The real differences emerge after 8. On the western side of the Wall the lights of the kebab stall stay on all night.

In the east, the streets are bathed in a stale yellow.

But whereas in the west the children of the wall – the generation that has grown up since 1961 – gather like moths around the lights of the Kurfürstendamm, their Eastern contemporaries have no equivalent breeding ground.

Instead, they separate into tribes – the punks, the poppers, the rockers – and depart for their different reservations.

However, extraordinary events bring them together. Such an occasion was the concert of Udo Lindenberg, a West German rock star.

He has a gravelly voice, affects hats to disguise the aging process and supports the Greens. When he arrived, the crowds outside the Palace of the Republic (an appropriately dreary structure) contained every possible specimen of the night and half-night life of the city, all of them shouting "Udo, Udo".

The odd thing is that Lindenberg had recorded a song which was an appeal to Herr Erich Honecker to allow him to tour East Germany and addressed the party leader in relaxed terms; "I believe that you're really quite a swinger... You lock yourself in the loo and listen to Western radio..."

How Lindenberg got into the country is a mystery – Herr Honecker is not famous for his sense of humour. But could he really have been trying to revitalize the nightlife of East Berlin?

Perhaps the clue lies in a voice that comes at the end of the Lindenberg record instructing "Comrade Erich", in Russian, to give the singer immediate permission to visit the German Democratic Republic.

Roger Boyes

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Last chance to see

Main Street Bygones, Ulster-American Folk Park, Camphill, Omagh; Mon to Fri 10.30 to 4.30 (ends today).

Picture Derby – photographs of Derby from 1900 to 1983, Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends today).

Reality and Artifice – approaches to Modern Art II; Maclaurin Art Gallery, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5 (closes 1pm today).

Music

Concert by the Hilliard Ensemble, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, 8.

Exhibitions in progress

Paintings, Prints and Drawings by David Hack, Sarah James, Nicholas Sheath and Nigel Tomlinson, Exhibition Gallery, Faculty of Art and Design, Southampton College of Higher Education, East Park Terrace, Southampton; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun (ends Jan 13).

Costume Designs by Clive Hicks-Jenkins for the New Theatre production of the Pantomime "Humpty Dumpty", Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport, Gwent; Mon to Thurs 10 to 5.30, Fri 10 to 4.30, Sat 9.40 to 4, closed Sun (ends Feb 4).

Exhibition of Alternative Technology, Dorset County Museum, High Street West, Dorchester; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 28).

Byker: Photographs of Newcastle's East End by Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen, Side Gallery, 9 Side, Newcastle upon Tyne; Tues to Fri 11 to 6, Sat and Sun 11 to 5 (ends Jan 8).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,322

ACROSS

1 Weak suit never went successfully to court (5,5).
6 She was repetitious (4).
9 Interchange two numbers on the next page (10).
10 Joint of pork needed (4).
12 Miss S. Potter's employed as office manager (12).
15 Give an old-fashioned look (9).
17 Length in feet (5).
18 Honour among thieves (5).
19 Copper returned 26's to Scotsman, being in charge (9).
20 Nor was Quaker disposed to escape (6,6).
24 Hull's nautical schools (4).
25 On one's way, after effective cure for nostalgia (4-6).
26 Cup given to second place (4).
27 You, my son, are confused with poles of similar significance (10).

DOWN

1 Brave might be adorned with war-paint (4).
2 I and boy join club (4).
3 Victor William (3,9).
4 Distinction for first and second in economics, but not in Latin (5).
5 In which scouts should be (9).
7 Business has no right to turn, we hear, round the same point (10).
8 Supervision – one grieves when it's lax (10).
11 Dismiss church speechifying (5,7).
13 18 – a monkey's 18! (10).
14 A mediator's broadcast – on this? (5,5).
16 Helping to put a hundred in one ship, none on trains (9).
21 Yorkshire flower with the same plant disease (5).
22 Store is turned upside down; look after it (4).
23 Long time no see, as they stay in prisons (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,321

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 6

Tips for exporters

A new booklet entitled *Construction Exporters: A Guide to Services* which provides construction exporters with sufficient information or of services, mainly within the scope of government, which are most appropriate to their needs, is available from: The Department of the Environment, Construction Industry Directorate, Room A107, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1P (tel 01-212 3884).

Safe cycling

With so many new cyclists on the roads after Christmas, the Central Office of Information has put out some safety tips. The safest saddle height is when the rider's feet can touch the ground while he's sitting on the saddle. The brakes, tyres and chain must all be in good condition. The front and rear lights and reflector should be clean and in working order. It is very important that young cyclists wear bright or fluorescent clothing in the daytime, and something light-coloured and reflective at night. Also, they should be properly trained, either by parents or through the National Cycling Proficiency Scheme.

Anniversaries

Births: Rudyard Kipling, Bombay, 1865; Stephen Leacock, humorist and political economist, Swanmore, Hampshire, 1869. Deaths: Robert Boyle, chemist, London, 1691; Sir William White Baker, explorer, discovered sources of the Nile, Sanford Orleigh, Devon, 1893.

Sphinx links

Datapost, the Royal Mail's high-speed courier delivery service for urgent documents and packages, has added Egypt to its world-wide network, which now links 41 countries. The Datapost service, which also operates internally in Britain, is designed for speeding business documents and other urgent items. The service to Egypt enables customers to send all kinds of business papers and documents to addresses in Cairo, Alexandria and Port Said, for delivery within two working days. Charges for Datapost to Egypt are £18 for the first ½kg and £5.75 for each additional ½kg up to a maximum of 15kg.

Food prices

Post-Christmas shoppers will find a few bargains at the greengrocer: cauliflowers which last week fetched 55p-80p each are down to an enticing 35p-45p, brussels sprouts are also down 2p-4p a pound at 24p-30p a pound, parsnips – excellent roasted around a joint or grated in salad – 15p-25p a pound. The British Farm Produce Council reminds us that a lot of our vegetables which we normally cook are equally good raw, such as carrots, turnips, onions, leeks, cauliflower and cabbage diced or grated. English and Dutch white cabbage ranges from 16p-25p a pound and may be cheaper in some areas. Salad prices are similar to last week, apart from tomatoes – up possibly as much as 15p a pound and green peppers 60p-80p a pound – an increase of 10p a pound.

The good news on fruit concerns citrus Jaffa and Cyprus grapefruit 8-18p each down 2p, Navel oranges 7p-18p down 1p, clementines, 24p-30p a pound, and satsumas 25p-30p a pound – a reduction of 3p-4p a pound.

Meat prices stay the same until after New Year. Tesco have chops topside and silverside at £1.98 per pound and fore ribs (bone in) at £1.52 a pound and boneless brisket at £1.42 a pound. Bejam have handy packs of Free Flow minced lamb at 99p a pound – an average pack weighs 1.12 lbs, costing £1.73. Presto have leg of lamb at £1.56 a pound. Sainsbury's English pork leg fillet halves are £1.08 a pound and knuckle half 96p a pound. Marks & Spencer have 10 oz. cartons of double cream at 82p and single at 55p. They have reduced Asti Spumanti to £2.99 a bottle, Brut Champagne to £6.99 a bottle and their six varieties of sherry to £2.39 a bottle, which should help to liven up New Year's Eve.

Beefing-up the post

Five of the most famous types of British cattle will be featured on the next special issue of stamps which go on sale in March.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.67	1.57
Austria Sch	29.00	27.40
Belgium Fr	84.25	80.25
Canada $	1.85	1.78
Denmark Kr	14.84	14.14
Finland Mkk	8.74	8.34
France Fr	12.40	11.90
Germany DM	4.08	3.89
Greece Dr	166.00	154.00
Hongkong $	11.40	10.80
Ireland Pt	1.31	1.26
Italy Lira	2485.00	2365.00
Japan Yen	350.00	332.00
Netherlands Gld	4.60	4.37
Norway Kr	11.58	10.98
Portugal Esc	198.00	187.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69
Spain Pta	234.00	223.50
Sweden Kr	12.04	11.44
Switzerland Fr	3.26	3.09
USA $	1.48	1.43
Yugoslavia Dnr	222.00	208.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd.

Retail Price Index: 341.9.

London: The *FT* Index closed down 3.1 at 772.5.

Roads

Although most major roadworks are suspended over the Christmas holiday period you may encounter delays at the following locations:

London and South-east: A13: Movers Lane flyover closed for repainting, Barking. A324: Alternate single lane in Goldsworthy Road, Woking; temporary signals 24 hours. A240: Long-term reconstruction between Waterer Road and A217 Brighton Road, in Reigate Road, Burgh Heath, nr Epsom; diversions.

Midlands: A61: Traffic signals controlling traffic at Clay Cross, Derbyshire. A429: Roadworks on Wellesbourne-Stow road at Halford, Warwickshire. A45: Roadworks on Coventry-Daventry road at Fosse Crossing, Warwickshire.

Wales and West: A483: Temporary traffic lights in Wind Street, Ammanford; long delays. A35: Single-lane traffic controlled by temporary lights on Axminster-Honiton road between Kilmington and Loughwood. A40: Temporary lights on Bancyfelin to Camarthen road; diversions.

North: A628: Single-lane traffic controlled by signals at Thurlestone River Bridge. A66: Single-lane traffic on bridge at Eden Lodge, Kirby Thore, Cumbria; temporary signals. A575: Egerton Street in Farnworth closed nr to junction with Gladstone Road; diversions.

Scotland: A94: Single-lane traffic controlled by temporary lights nr Glamis. A82: Single-lane traffic controlled by lights in Inverness-shire.

Information supplied by AA

The papers

As if to mock Orwell's omnipresent "Big Brother," the Soviet Union enters 1984 with the extended absence of its leader, Yuri Andropov, the New York Times says. "The lies about his cold have been abandoned. But a conspiracy of silence continues to conceal the ailment that made him appear deathly ill even before he ceased to appear in public altogether four months ago. Who is really in command, and is he up to it?" The paper asks. It comments: "Of course the reluctance to concede frailty in the high places is not a uniquely Soviet failing. The White House has seen many such cover-ups, even when it meant leaving an arrogant physician, protective wife, or scheming aide to wield presidential power. Indeed, this paranoia of power has plagued most political systems through most of history. But in a superpower in the nuclear age, it is unacceptable."

The paper thinks that "instead of hinting delicately at some doubt about who's in charge in Moscow these days, President Reagan should be pressing the question openly, for all the world. To ask it is not impolite but a tribute to the Soviet Union's vast power over all of us. Why can't they admit disability? Judging by American history, there is no ready answer. Power and concessions to mortality don't seem to mix".

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Weather forecast

A weak frontal trough will clear quickly from SE England and pressure will rise steadily over the British Isles.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E, SW England, East Anglia, E, W Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Cloudy, a few showers at first, sunny periods developing; wind NW moderate or fresh, locally strong; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F) becoming colder.

N Wales, NW, central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind NW fresh or strong; max temp 7 to 8C (45 to 46F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals, showers, some heavy and wintry on hills, mostly dying out later; wind NW fresh or strong, occasionally gale force; max temp 6 to 7C (43 to 45F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers, snow on hills and some lower ground; wind W or NW fresh or strong, locally gale force; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetlands: Blustery showers, snow on hills and some low ground, mostly dying out later, sunny intervals; wind W or NW strong to gale force, occasionally severe gale force; max temp 4 to 5C (39 to 41F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Mainly dry with sunny intervals but becoming cloudy in the North with a little rain. Becoming milder.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind NW fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough. Straits of Dover: Wind NW moderate or fresh; sea moderate. English Channel (E): Wind NW moderate; sea moderate. St George's Channel: Wind NW moderate; sea slight. Irish Sea: Wind NW strong, locally gale, decreasing moderate or fresh later; sea rough becoming moderate.

Sun rises: 8.06 am | Sun sets: 4.00 pm
Moon rises: 4.06 am | Moon sets: 1.28 pm
New Moon January 3.

Lighting-up time

London 4.30 pm to 7.38 am
Bristol 4.40 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.16 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.27 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.58 pm to 7.51 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; dr, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

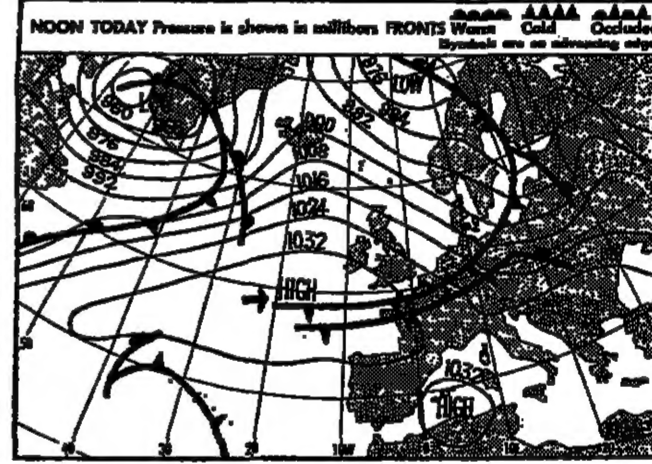
		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	10	50	Guernsey	s	7	45
Birmingham	c	7	45	Inverness	c	10	50
Blackpool	c	9	48	Jersey	s	8	46
Bristol	c	8	46	London	c	8	46
Cardiff	c	7	45	Manchester	s	9	48
Edinburgh	dr	10	50	Newcastle	c	11	52
Glasgow	dr	10	50	Ronaldsway	c	10	50

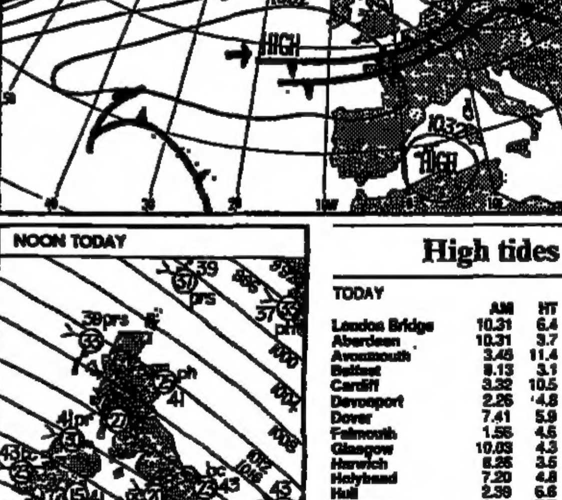
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6 pm, 88 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1029.4 millibars falling. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay 12C (54F); lowest day max: Wattisham 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Tiree 0.26in; highest sunshine: Jersey 5.1hr.





b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled. temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10.31	6.4	11.13	6.6
Aberdeen	10.31	3.7	10.47	3.9
Avonmouth	3.45	11.4	4.14	11.6
Belfast	8.13	3.1	8.23	3.4
Cardiff	3.32	10.5	4.01	10.7
Devonport	2.26	4.8	2.51	4.9
Dover	7.41	5.9	8.23	5.8
Falmouth	1.55	4.6	2.21	4.7
Glasgow	10.03	4.3	10.00	4.4
Harwich	8.26	3.5	9.05	3.5
Holyhead	7.20	4.8	7.40	5.0
Hull	2.39	6.6	3.32	6.5
Ilfracombe	2.34	7.7	3.03	7.9
Leith	11.35	5.1	11.59	5.2
Liverpool	8.02	8.2	8.27	8.4
Lowestoft	5.54	2.3	6.52	2.2
Margate	8.29	4.3	9.24	4.3
Milford Haven	2.53	5.9	3.21	6.1
Newquay	1.51	5.9	2.18	6.1
Oban	2.56	3.2	3.23	3.4
Penzance	1.36	4.8	1.59	4.9
Portland	3.17	1.7	3.43	1.7
Portsmouth	8.15	4.3	8.45	4.2
Shoreham	7.32	5.5	8.28	5.3
Southampton	7.54	4.3	8.22	4.1
Swansea	3.05	8.0	3.31	8.3
Tees	12.14	4.8	1.00	4.8
Walton-on-Naze	8.18	3.7	9.01	3.8

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain



	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	–	–	9	48	Bright
Bridlington	–	.01	9	48	Bright
Cromer	–	–	6	43	Dull
Lowestoft	–	–	7	45	Fog am
Clacton	–	.01	7	45	Drizzle
Margate	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Folkestone	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Hastings	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Eastbourne	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Brighton	–	–	8	46	Dull
Worthing	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Littlehmptn	–	–	9	48	Drizzle am
Bognor R	–	–	9	48	Dull
Southsea	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Shanklin	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Bournemth	–	–	9	48	Dull
Poole	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Swanage	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Weymouth	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Exmouth	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Guernsey	4.1	–	10	50	Sunny
Scilly Isles	0.4	–	10	50	Dull
Newquay	–	–	10	50	Cloudy
Ilfracombe	–	–	11	52	Cloudy
Tenby	–	.01	9	48	Cloudy
Southport	–	–	11	52	Cloudy
Morecambe	–	.07	9	48	Rain
Douglas	–	.04	9	48	Cloudy
London (Ctrl)	–	–	9	48	Drizzle am
B'ham (Airpt)	–	–	7	45	Cloudy
Bristol (Ctrl)	–	–	9	48	Cloudy
Cardiff (Ctrl)	–	–	8	46	Cloudy
Anglesey	–	.02	10	50	Rain am
B'pool (Airpt)	0.8	.02	10	50	Cloudy
Manchester	1.4	.06	9	48	Bright am
Nottingham	–	–	8	46	Cloudy
N'cstl-n-Tyne	–	–	11	52	Bright
Carlisle	0.1	.02	10	50	Cloudy
Eskdalemuir	–	.09	8	46	Rain
Prestwick	–	.01	11	52	Cloudy

Abroad



MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F
Ajaccio	s	14	57
Akrotiri	s	18	64
Alexandria	f	19	66
Algiers	s	16	61
Amsterdam	c	9	48
Athens	s	15	59
Bahrain			
Barbados*	f	28	82
Barcelona	s	15	59
Beirut	f	19	66
Belgrade	s	9	48
Berlin	s	9	48
Bermuda*	s	20	68
Biarritz	s	15	59
Boulogne	c	6	43
Bordeaux	s	14	57
Brussels	c	6	43
Budapest	s	11	52
Buen Aires*	f	28	82
Cairo			
Cape Tn	s	23	73
C'blanca	s	21	70
Chicago*	sn	-8	18
Cologne	c	9	48
Copenhgn	s	6	43
Corfu	s	17	63
Dallas*	s	-2	28
Dublin	s	10	50
Dubrovnik	s	17	63
Faro	s	16	61
Florence	s	8	46
Frankfurt	c	7	45
Funchal	s	20	68
Geneva	s	7	45
Gibraltar	f	17	63
Helsinki	c	2	36
Hongkong	c	11	52
Innsbruck	s	7	45
Istanbul	s	11	52
Jiddah	s	31	88
Jo'burg	f	24	75
Karachi	s	20	68
Las Palmas	s	22	72
Lisbon	s	12	54
Locarno	s	5	41
L Angeles*	s	16	61
Luxembg	fg	3	37
Madrid	s	11	52
Majorca	s	15	59
Malaga	c	15	59
Malta	c	15	59
Melbourne	s	32	90
Mexico C*	s	18	64
Miami*	f	26	79
Milan	s	8	46
Montreal*	sn	-5	23
Moscow	c	0	32
Munich	c	4	39
Nairobi			
Naples	s	16	61
New Delhi	s	18	64
New York*	r	00	32
Nice	s	16	61
Oslo	s	4	39
Rio de Jan*	f	28	82
Rome	s	15	59
Salzburg	c	4	39
Sao Paulo*	c	26	79
S Francisco*	c	11	52
Santiago*	s	28	82
Seoul	f	4	25
Singapore	r	27	81
Stockholm	s	3	37
Strasbourg	fg	4	39
Sydney	s	24	75
Tangier	s	17	63
Tel Aviv	s	20	68
Tenerife	s	22	72
Tokyo	f	8	46
Toronto*	s	-3	27

* denotes Wednesday's figures